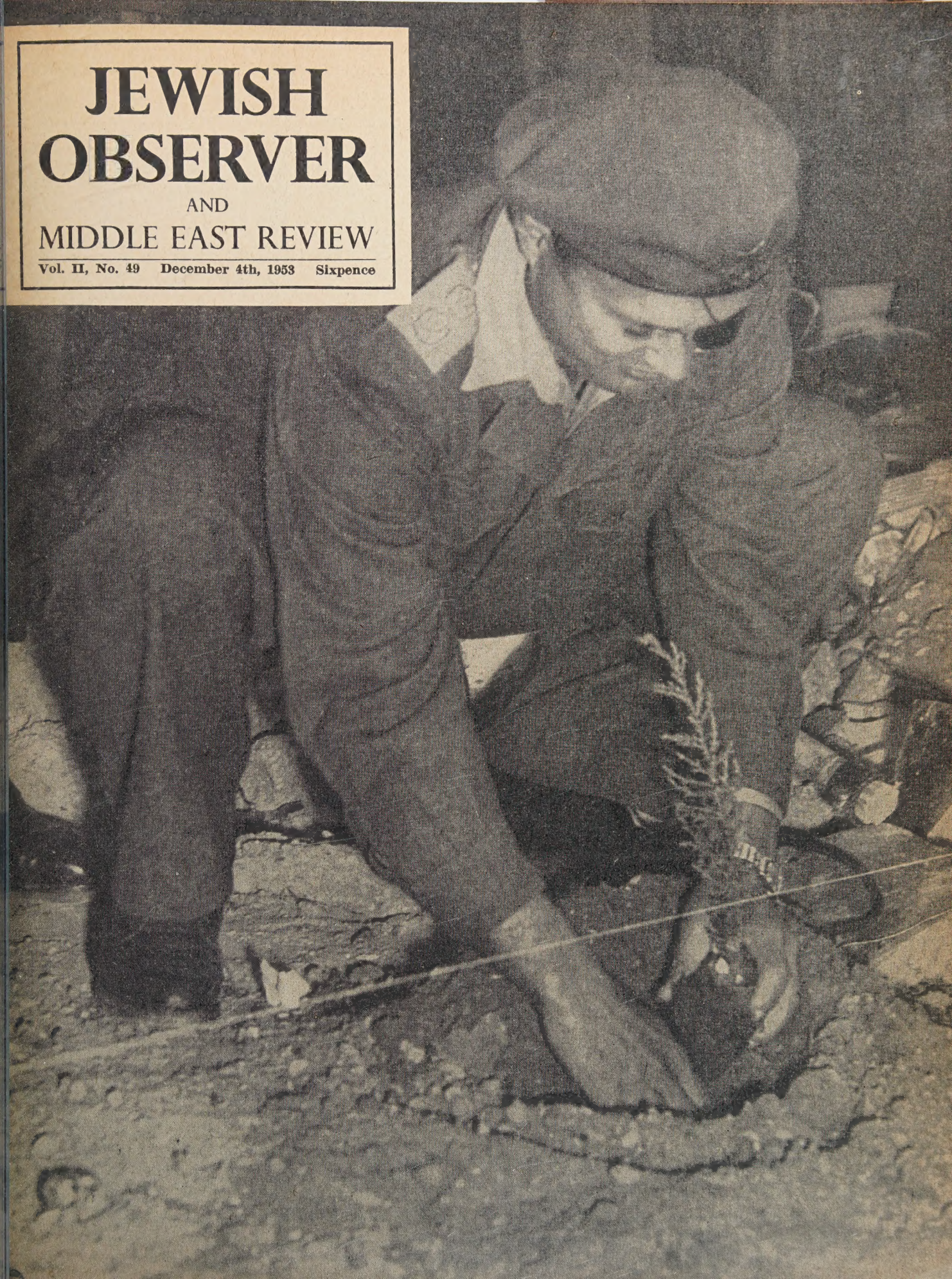


JEWISH OBSERVER

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JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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- Cover Picture shows Israel's new Chief-of-Staff, Major-General Moshe Dayan, planting the first tree in the Beersheba afforestation scheme.

—Photo: Associated Press

CONTENTS

"Kill, Kill, Kill"—The Sudan Shock; Makleff's Resignation	3
Germany's Dr. Höpfl; Arab's Jerusalem Conference ...	4
Egypt: Rebellion in the Brotherhood — Pro-Neguib coup against Supreme Guide	5
Knesset: Existing Without Peace — The Foreign Affairs Debate	6
Soviet Union: Elderly Jews still orthodox—But Youth absent from Synagogues ...	7
British Responsibility for the Jordan Kingdom—A Revealing Record of Influence, by Jon Kimche	8
In the News: Shawcross—Two Views; Youth Aliyah's Admiral; Hollywood's Israel ...	9
Suez: Two Views—Julian Amery and Crossman ...	10
Israel's Socialism Examined, from Yaakov Morris ...	12-13
Books: Novels of Exile, by Emanuel Litvinoff	14
Among the Russian-Jewish Immigrants—East End Recollections III, by Israel Cohen	15-16
Jewish Affairs: Zionist Federation—Yorkshire Keymen's Conference; Reception to Israel Journalists; Delegation "Welcome Home" ...	17
Technion—Karminski and Shinwell support appeal; Jewish Child's Day; Dutch Zionists; Hull	18

J.P.A.-J.N.F. NEWS

Full Stride in Negev Oil Drilling, by David Grossman	20
Feitelson Tree Nursery: Title Deeds Awarded	21

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THE WEEK

SUDAN FOREIGN OFFICE "RELATIVELY UNDISMAYED"

THE SUDAN ELECTION resulted in a clear majority for the pro-Egyptian National Unity Party; it is a marked set-back for the Independence Umma Party which had British blessing, and which announced its refusal to recognise the elections as valid.

IN EGYPT, President Neguib's position was greatly strengthened by the Sudan vote; a "pro-Neguib" revolt took place in the leadership of the Moslem Brotherhood; in Alexandria, 13 Jews were arrested on Tuesday for alleged Zionist activities; 17 others were arrested on charges of alleged Communist activities.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF, 33-year-old Mordecai Makleff, resigned; his successor is 38-year-old Chief of Operations, Moshe Dayan.

THE JORDAN GOVERNMENT is reported to have decided to reject Israel's request for a meeting under Article 12 of the Armistice Agreement; the rejection has been communicated to U.N. Secretary-General Hammerskjold.

PRESIDENT SHISHEKLY of Syria and the Lebanese Premier, Abdalla el Yafi met in Damascus last week-end to consider approaches to Baghdad and Amman, with a view to countering "pressure on Jordan" to conclude a separate peace with Israel.

IN THE KNESSET, in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Sharett discussed in strong terms Israel's position "if there is no peace" with the Arab States.

THE MAPAI COUNCIL decided to cancel last July's recommendation of the Party's Central Committee that Labour's flag be flown and its Anthem sung in State schools on May 1; Premier Ben-Gurion's views prevailed.

BEN-GURION'S NEW HOME, a new three-roomed house at Sdeh Boker, was completed and ready for his retirement to the peace and quiet of the Negev. An ordinary telephone and a special radiophone were installed to facilitate quiet meditation.

COALITION NEGOTIATIONS to form a new Israel Government moved from snag to snag; Mapai embarked on talks with Mapam to counter General Zionist pressure; then the General Zionists protested at being left out and refused to meet Mapai; meanwhile the day of



Victorious Ismail El-Azhari, leader of the Sudan National Unity Party, claps exultantly when election results are announced.

Ben-Gurion's departure is drawing near; it is expected next week.

DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN and other Jewish leaders have protested against long prison sentences passed on two prominent Rumanian Jews, Jean Littmann and Suzanne Benvenisti, for maintaining contact with the World Jewish Congress.

ISRAEL AND WEST GERMAN Government Delegations are having secret talks in Basle about property in Israel owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cologne. Reuter reports from the Swiss city. The Israel Government reached agreement with Protestant Churches over property last year.

NEW SOVIET MINISTER to Israel, Alexander Abramov, arrived at Lydda Airport on Monday; on the same day Dr. Samuel Eliashiv, Israel's Minister to the Soviet Union, was received by Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov.

IN MANCHESTER, where he was guest-of-honour at a Civic Dinner, Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath spoke of the city's association with Zionism; of Manchester's remarkable industrial development and the balance the city maintained between spiritual, cultural and material matters.

"KILL, KILL, KILL"

SUDAN SHOCKS WHITEHALL

At 20.56 hours on Sunday evening a Reuters' "flash" came chattering on to the ticker. The first words—the slug—were bloodcurdling: "Kill, Kill, Kill" they repeated. Then came the message:—

Please kill the first two paragraphs in the last message from Khartoum. Later cables show that the Southern Party is not in the lead as these two paragraphs stated.

It was a routine message meant for unsentimental newsmen; but it was also an historic message. At 20.56 on Sunday evening, just before the news, the curtain came down on the British episode in the Sudan. The Sudan elections had been treated by the British press for many months as a kind of *opera bouffe*; attention had been focussed on the traditionally pro-British south and on the antics of the Egyptians. That morning the Sunday papers reported "Sudan election blow to Egypt."

Outmanoeuvred By Neguib: Unlike the Foreign Office, press and public opinion were unprepared to see the carefully tended Sudan, one of the few territories of the Commonwealth about which the English could feel sentimental, choose Egypt rather than the British.

The Foreign Office made a virtue of its discomfiture, the inevitable outcome of its being outmanoeuvred by Neguib a year ago when the Sudan agreement with Egypt was concluded, by welcoming the "democratic choice" of the Sudanese.

Accordingly, the Foreign Office was "relatively undismayed" by the outcome though rather more than usually reserved. The report of the Electoral Commission is now awaited and also the healing influence of time.

It is the firm belief in London that the present alignment is not final; there will be many second thoughts yet among the victorious National Unity deputies before they plunge all out for the Egyptian connection. Time may yet redress the balance and change the judgment of the polls. Hence, why panic?

Such are the comforting reflections in official Whitehall.

They are not shared in Cairo or Khartoum.

Egypt: "A Blow For Imperialism": Ismail El Azhari, leader of the victorious National Unionist Party and prospective first Sudanese Prime Minister commenting on the Party's election success, said:

"Victory should not make us forget the great responsibility ahead. We



A year ago—Major-General Makleff bids farewell to predecessor Major-General Yadin. Now Makleff, too, gives way to another.

should do our utmost to shoulder the responsibilities in the interests of all Sudanese. I wish to assure the public that we will serve the Sudan as nationals and not as partisans."

In Cairo there was no similar sign of restraint.

The daily *Al Akhbar* said: "British imperialism was dealt a 'dagger in Britain's neck, a whiplash on her back. It was the rise of a new nation which had been suppressed for half a century."

Al Ahram, after congratulating all Sudanese, irrespective of party, said: "The road ahead of the Sudanese is long and difficult. The battle of freedom is not yet won. Intruding imperialists will plant obstacles in the way."

Al Kahira said the election results demonstrated the "failure of British policy, particularly in the South."

"Dance, Salem, Dance": Hassan, Egyptian member of the Sudan Electoral Commission, cabled Major Salah Salem, Egypt's Minister of National Guidance: "You can now dance not only with the Dinka youth as you did some time ago, but with the youths of the Nile Valley."

"Let your next dance be on the Banks of the Suez Canal, Allah willing."

Final results showed that the National Unionist Party, which had the support of Egypt, has won the Sudan's first general election by a big majority, with more than double the seats won by the Umma (Independence) Party, its nearest rivals.

Polling Results: With one out of 92

seats still to be declared, figures are:

National Unionists	...	...	44
Umma	...	...	20
Southern Party	...	...	9
Socialist Republicans	...	...	4
Independents	...	...	14

The House of Representatives has 97 members, but the five remaining seats are elected from graduates' constituencies in which polling has not yet taken place.

MAKLEFF RESIGNS

The Israel Government announced in Jerusalem on Tuesday evening that Major-General Mordecai Makleff, the Chief of Staff, had resigned and that Major-General Moshe Dayan would succeed him. The announcement said that General Makleff asked to be relieved of his duties because he agreed to serve for only one year after the resignation of the former Chief of Staff, Major General Yigal Yadin.

Dayan began his military career with the Special Jewish Force under British command which took part in the Syrian campaign against Vichy forces in World War Two. During the campaign he lost one eye. After serving as a Battalion Commander during the Arab-Israeli war, and as defender of besieged Jerusalem, he was a member of the Israel Delegation at the Rhodes Armistice negotiations. He acted as an adviser to the Israel Delegation during the debate on the Quibya incident in the United Nations Security Council.

PRESS

GERMANY'S DR. HÖPFL IN LONDON

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* has opened a London office under the direction of Dr. Heinz Höpfl. Dr. Höpfl is better known as the political editor of the *Völkischer Beobachter* which was the official newspaper of Hitler's Nazi Party. In this capacity he struck the keynotes of Nazi propaganda on foreign policy which the rest of the German press was expected to follow. Here are some examples of Höpfl's writings:

Atlantic Charter: On August 16, 1941, he opened Germany's attack on the Atlantic Charter in an article headed "Atlantic Wilsoniad." The Charter, he said, was an "insolent bluff" with which the Allies hoped to save "their cause, i.e. the Jewish-Masonic world conspiracy."

International Jewry: On November 10, 1941, the anniversary of the November, 1938, pogrom, he attacked Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin as "the trio of war criminals" and also "international Jewry, the instigators of the world coalition against the German people."

British "Ruling Class": As late as 1944, Höpfl wrote "the British ruling class gave the Jews the chance of gaining complete hold over British policy, which never again managed to throw off the Jewish shackles." Also, Britain had been responsible for "the immigration (into Palestine) of Jewish parasites."

Churchill: Of Churchill, Höpfl wrote, "the present Prime Minister knows what he owes to his Jews, and he knows too that they have access to the White House as readily as to Downing Street."

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David Owen, Director of Technical Assistance in the U.N.—More work for Arab refugees.

THE JERUSALEM ARAB CONGRESS IRAQI INITIATIVE

With one sudden stroke Iraq has seized the initiative on the Palestine question and the chances are that when the five-day Jerusalem Congress opening on December 3 is over the initiative on that issue will remain in Iraqi hands for some time, reports Robert Gee.

The Congress has been called by the Iraqi "Association for Rescuing Palestine". It was preceded by an intense effort by Iraqi diplomacy which was begun after the inconclusive spring session of the Arab League Council.

Egypt's reluctance to complicate her foreign relations any further by raising the Palestine problem at this stage only strengthened the Iraqi hand and the Quibya incident provided the opportunity to raise this question on an international forum.

Support Sought: Officially, the Government of Iraq has nothing to do with the Congress which, however, enjoys Government blessing and active support. But the arrival in Cairo of Sayid Amjad Al-Zahawi, leader of the "Association for Rescuing Palestine," and his companion Sheikh Mohamed Mahmud Al-Sauwaf was viewed with understandable consternation in Egyptian circles.

It is significant that during his stay in Cairo, Al-Zahawi's contacts with official quarters there were negligible. They were confined almost exclusively to Moslem organisations and the Palestine Arab Higher Committee of the ex-Mufti. All the time Al-Zahawi remained in close touch with Iraq's Ambassador to Egypt,

Najib Al-Rawi, who had just returned from a ten-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

But, once Al-Zahawi left Cairo on November 24, he proceeded with consultations at the top level: with King Saud of Saudi Arabia, with President Shamoun of the Lebanon and with General Shisheky in Syria. As the Congress opens in Jerusalem it will be watched anxiously in Cairo for symptoms of the kind of support which Al-Zahawi will have managed to mobilise in the Arab capitals other than Cairo.

The Agenda: According to a provisional agenda the real work will start on the second day when the Palestine problem comes up for a general debate. A Palestine policy will then be laid down and ways found "to protect the Holy Places". In Iraqi eyes this spells the internationalisation of Jerusalem.

All Moslem organisations, including the Moslem Brotherhood, accepted the invitation to attend the Congress. Notable Arabs and Moslem religious leaders are expected to be present.

But, at this junction, all eyes will look for one man—the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem who left Cairo, just before Al-Zahawi arrived in Egypt, on a secret mission to Beirut. It seems extraordinary that his name has not so far been mentioned even in a remote connection with the Congress.

The Proclamation: The aims of the Congress were set out in a Proclamation issued by Al-Zahawi to Moslems all over the world. It said:

"The Jews—enemies of Islam—having succeeded in taking possession of Moslem homes, began to devastate such Moslem Mosques and places of prayer as had fallen into their hands and to desecrate them deliberately . . .

The Proclamation went on to accuse Israel of repeated attacks against Moslems in spite of the Armistice and designs aimed at seizing Jerusalem "to erect the Temple of Solomon on the ruins of the Mosque of Al-Aksa."

REFUGEE AID

The United Nations General Assembly agreed unanimously last Friday to continue aid for Palestine Arab refugees until the middle of 1955. Meeting in plenary session, it authorised the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees to spend 24,800,000 dollars (about £8,900,000 Sterling) during the year ending June 30, 1954. A provisional budget of 18 million dollars (about £6,400,000 sterling) was also authorised for the year ending June 30, 1955 with five nations—the "Soviet Bloc"—abstaining.

EGYPT

REBELLION IN THE — BROTHERHOOD

PRO-NEGUIB COUP AGAINST SUPREME GUIDE

The simmering differences in the all-powerful Moslem Brotherhood exploded with a vengeance on Saturday morning. The leaders of the more radical and pro-Neguib Alexandria group, who had last September been excluded from all Higher Councils, staged a rebellion against the Conservative leadership of the Supreme Guide, Hodeiby. If successful, this coup will release Neguib and the Revolutionary Junta from the conservative grip of Brotherhood influence, *reports Robert Gee, our special Middle East correspondent.*

Early last Saturday the Ashmawi group of the Brotherhood forced their way into its Headquarters at Helmia El Gedida in Cairo. Shortly afterwards a statement was issued by Saleh El Ashmawi which announced the dismissal of Dr. Hassan El Hodeiby, the Supreme Guide.

The rebellion has been in the making for some time. The show-down was expected around December 3 when Dr. Hodeiby and two other members of the Board of Guidance would be at the Jerusalem Congress. It is not clear now who will go to Jerusalem; for Saleh El Ashmawi now claims that he has taken over the Board of Guidance of twelve who are constituted the law-makers for the Brotherhood throughout the Arab East.

Which Way Brotherhood? Dr. Hassan El Hodeiby, the "deposed" Supreme Guide, denounced the "coup" which in the light of the usage accepted by the "Ikhwan" not only has no precedent but is illegal.

Dr. El Hodeiby had been elected to the office of the Supreme Guide following the murder of his predecessor, Sheikh Hassan El Banna, whose assassins are now standing trial before the Criminal Court in Cairo.

By preserving the Brotherhood's integrity in the upheaval which followed the Egyptian Revolution he has managed to establish a strange balance of power between the Brotherhood and General Neguib's Revolution. That balance is now in jeopardy.

Rival's Attack: Saleh El Ashmawi, who like several other Brothers had a prior claim to the office of the Supreme

Guide, never forgave Dr. El Hodeiby. He attacked him in March this year in an article published by the Cairo weekly *Rose El Youssef* for "sitting on the fence" instead of following the wish of the Brotherhood's rank and file and joining hands with the Revolution.

El Ashmawi continued to agitate the "Ikhwan" ever since. Finally, the matter



Brotherhood's Supreme Guide El Hodeiby—purged or not?

came to a head when the Founders' Committee removed him from the Board of Guidance during the elections held at an all-night session and behind locked doors early in September.

The impasse which followed was only temporary. Dr. El Hodeiby began to expand the Brotherhood to the East and in North Africa. But he did not forget El Ashmawi's allies.

On November 22 the Board of Guidance decided to remove four leading opposition supporters from the Founders Committee. "By virtue of this decision their connections with the organisation have been severed completely," the announcement said.

All four are known to have been involved in the "Jeep" case, a bomb outrage of 1948, in which they had been acquitted. The expulsion added fuel to the Brotherhood fire and El Ashmawi decided to act.

In the meantime Dr. Hassan El Hodeiby remained one step ahead of his rival.

The Dinner: On November 23 a stream

of cars stopped in front of El Hodeiby's home. They brought to dinner five members of the Revolutionary Council, headed by Colonel Nasser. They were received by Hodeiby and by nine other Brothers, several members of the Board of Guidance amongst them.

During this meeting which ended at midnight full agreement was reached on the necessity to drive out the British troops from the Canal Zone—by the use of force if necessary. The Moslem Brotherhood would play its part in promoting enlistment for the regime's National Guards.

The Result: Next Day: El Hodeiby announced that the Brotherhood was "prepared to join any armed struggle to drive the British out of the country." He said the Brotherhood had given this assurance to the Egyptian Revolutionary Council, in support of the Council's decisions taken in the interests of the people.

Political observers in Cairo believe that Colonel Nasser warned the Brotherhood that they would be dissolved like all political parties unless its outlook was in full harmony with the outlook of the regime.

Dr. Hodeiby added: "Egyptians will not obtain their rights except by a struggle. This course should have been adopted by the country from the very beginning." He called on every Moslem to join the struggle "to drive the enemy out of the land and sacrifice everything towards that end." The Brotherhood had decided to join the newly created National Guard in order to be ready for the coming struggle against the "occupation."

A Rebel Announcement: Then, on Saturday morning, came the rebels. They occupied Hodeiby's headquarters and issued a statement denouncing the recent expulsions from the Brotherhood carried out by the Supreme Guide. The rebel leaders announced—

- ¶ that the expelled members were only "suspended" pending a final decision by the new Supreme Guide;
- ¶ that the old leadership was "suspended";
- ¶ that the "rebels" would take over for the time being.

Significantly, Neguib's police were on duty outside and satisfactorily ensured that there was no interference with the "rebels."

KNESSET

EXISTING WITHOUT PEACE

THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

The keenly awaited Foreign Affairs Debate was opened on Monday by Moshe Sharett, the Foreign Minister and Mapai's nominee as Ben-Gurion's successor, who for the first time discussed the possibility of Israel having to continue indefinitely without a peace settlement.

Discussing the effect of last week's Security Council resolution of censure against Israel, which he said had been discriminatory and had lowered the prestige of the United Nations, the Foreign Minister declared:

We will not make it easy: "It is a delusion that Israel cannot exist without peace. We exist and will be able to exist without peace indefinitely. Naturally, it is a pity there is tension and suffering caused through absence of peace, but if the leaders of the Arab world prefer this to peace, it is their own affair.

"On the other hand, they will be compelled to fulfil their obligations under the Armistice Agreement and we will not make it easier for them to evade their responsibilities," Mr. Sharett warned.

The Western Powers had failed in the prime objective—that of ensuring peace in the Middle East. Now Israel's problem was how to maintain the imperfect armistice regime without harming her security and her development.

Other points made by Mr. Sharett were:

¶ **The Jordan canal**—Israel was the first to offer to sit down with her Arab neighbours to arrange a just joint distribution of water. But Israel stood firmly on her right to continue and finish her own irrigation work, as long as the rights of all individual landowners were safeguarded. She did not recognise Syria's claims.

¶ **The United States** could render precious assistance in developing water resources in the region for the benefit of all concerned and so solve problems of development and absorption. But just as Israel will not yield its political freedom and independence of thought for American assistance, "so shall we not seek foreign aid at the price of our prospects, our developments and our stabilisation."

Critics of Government: Itzhak Raphael, of Hapoel Hamizrahi, said that the root of Israel's weakness lay in its small immigration and strongly urged that this be increased.

General Zionist Haim Ariav, although supporting Government policy in general, criticised it for not creating more extensive contacts with World Zionism. Herut's Mr. Landau attacked the Government for its "appeasement" and "passive resistance" policy and said that



Minister of Justice Pinhas Rosen—kindly liberal, scholarly.

the present situation was a result. He called for a strong hand and urged the Government to proclaim General Bennike *persona non grata*.

Mapam's Jacob Riftin said the Government had sold itself to Western capitalism and had not sought the friendship of the Eastern democracies.

Before this week's Foreign Affairs debate, the marking-time process which began a fortnight ago continued. This marking-time process has had a certain value from a parliamentary point of view. It has enabled the House to clear up a number of debates in an atmosphere free from party strife.

Lecture on Justice: An excellent example was the debate which was begun on the Penal Code Bill. The Knesset was first of all treated to a one and a half hour lecture by the Minister of Justice, Dr. Pinhas Rosen.

It may be that in a Parliament like Britain's an introductory speech of this length would be unusual, but it should be remembered that the members of the Knesset are, in a sense, legislative stu-

dents and, far from objecting, they welcomed the opportunity of hearing a informative lecture of this kind. No one could anyone fill the role of Professor Rosen more adequately than the Minister of Justice; he is kindly, liberal, scholarly and patient.

The Bill itself struggles to find a compromise between the desire to introduce a modern and enlightened Penal Code and the difficulty of dealing with a population drawn from many countries and with many different attitudes toward the law. There were one or two speeches which were objective in character, but the debate suffered from the fact that some members of the Knesset tended to judge the bill not on its merits but on the basis of suspicion that the Government had hidden intentions. Herut's Dr. Bader for example, laid stress on a clause which abolishes the special privileges for political prisoners; the Communist member, Mr. Mikunis, and the Mapam representatives, attacked the bill for the inclusion of a minimum punishment clause, believing it to be anti-social in character.

The whole of Monday was taken up with a series of debates for the extension of various Emergency Powers Acts dealing with matters like foreign currency and foreign investments. These bills come up periodically, and there is always a mild opposition to the use of such powers until such time as the Government will be able to incorporate them into fundamental Acts.

A grand alliance of Mapam, the Communist Party, and Mr. Sneh's Left Party joined in a motion to censure the Government and demand a debate on the position in the *ma'abarot*. It is a sign of the times that the debate passed off quietly. Two years ago, when tent-cities were a real social problem there would have been great excitement. Today, although there are still a large number of people living in huts, aluminium canvas, no more than 250 families are actually left in tents.

Trounced by Myerson: Mrs. Myers trounced the sponsors of the motion asserting that in almost all these cases there were houses for the tent-dwellers but that they had been induced, for political reasons, to refuse to move.

A motion by Mr. Shostak of the Herut Party, which charged the Government with a breach of faith in relation to prices being charged for popular housing, met with a similar fate.

SOVIET UNION

ELDERLY JEWS STILL ORTHODOX

BUT YOUTH ABSENT FROM SYNAGOGUES

In Moscow's Great Synagogue, under the shadow of the ancient Ark of the Law, a prayer is offered every Saturday for Premier Georgi Malenkov and his Government's "struggle for peace," writes Sidney Weiland, Reuter's correspondent in Moscow.

With this prayer is preserved the tenuous link between a Jewish community whose traditions go back for centuries and a government which gives equal freedom to religion and to anti-religious propaganda.

In 1953, practising Russian Jews appear as devout, as orthodox and as meticulous in their ritual as their ancestors in the days when Russia was a renowned seat of Hebrew learning. But it is a Jewish community of greybeards and old women. There are few young faces in the Synagogue. There is no religious school for the children. The old folk appear to be hanging on to their faith but the children, schooled in the materialistic devotions of the Young Communist League, are drifting away.

No Signs of Anti-Semitism : There are now believed to be 500,000 Jews in Moscow, although only a small proportion can be active believers.

For generations, Russia's Jews suffered persecution and oppression. The word pogrom became identified with the centres of Jewish culture, and from 1881 there began a mass pilgrimage of Russian Jews who settled and remain in the countries of Western Europe. With them went rabbis and the traditions of a deeply orthodox faith.

Anti-Semitism must, therefore, be a vivid memory for many of the congregants in the Moscow Great Synagogue. The feeling of insecurity has always been predominant among the Jews of Eastern Europe. But in Moscow in 1953 there are no signs of anti-Semitism, and the Soviet Constitution provides a safeguard for Jewish rights.

Several Synagogues : In the Moscow Great Synagogue today, there is no appearance of an overhanging fear, no indication that these are a people who live in anxiety. There is no reluctance to talk with foreigners.

There is no attempt to conceal the appearance of their devout faith. The

old men wear long flowing beards and their wives the wigs which are traditional in pious Jewish communities.

A typical Jewish Sabbath congregation on a Saturday consists of about 300 people, including at least 30 women. This would suggest that orthodox Jews are able to obtain free time from their work for religious observances.

There is no "ghetto" in Moscow and no distinctly Jewish quarter. The Synagogue in the Great Spasoglinshevski Lane is the biggest in the city, a fine building erected about 60 years ago, and there are several other synagogues in other districts.

Flocking to Day of Atonement Services : In 1939 there were believed to be ten synagogues in Moscow, but there has been a gradual reduction until today Jews from all parts of the city congregate at the Great Synagogue for the solemn festivals. Several thousands came to the New Year and Day of Atonement services and the street was blocked by an overflow crowd.

The vestments of the faith are old. There are prayer books printed in 1912, prayer shawls fraying at the edges, the velvet coverings on the ancient Scrolls of the Law are worn with age, and the silver ornaments are tarnished.

In the Soviet Union, no religious community receives State subsidies, but the faithful are allowed to maintain places of worship if they are able to support themselves. There is no religious education in the schools, and the Synagogue has no religious classes for children. But it is clear that Talmudic study continues in private homes.

The Synagogue walls on either side of the Ark of the Law bear inscribed prayers in Russian and Hebrew for the Soviet Government's "peace campaign," and these are repeated in the Sabbath services, together with prayers for guidance for Mr. Malenkov and for President Kliment Voroshilov.

An Annexe of Chassidism : These are the only concessions to modernity. The congregation presents a pattern of benign dignity, old men in well-worn black frock coats, skull caps on their heads, others in the typical dress of the Russian worker, trousers tucked into leather boots, wearing round fur caps. Yiddish is widely spoken.

In a small annexe, the devoutest of the community, the *chassidim*, gather from



Dr. Samuel Eliashiv, the Israel Minister to Moscow, who was withdrawn when the Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in February, returned to his post last Friday. This follows the Russian agreement to resume diplomatic relations with Israel.

5.0 a.m. every morning for Talmudic study and for learned discussion on the ancient Jewish laws. For the women there is a *mikva*, a sacred bath, which is a symbol of the most orthodox communities. There are collecting boxes on the walls, calling for charity for the poor. Little in the Synagogue seems to have changed in centuries of Russian-Jewish history despite all the changes in the world outside.

Dying Out : The Soviet Government appears to place no obstacles in the way of the Jewish community. In several ways the Government aids the faithful. There is a limited quantity of *Kosher* meat available, although this is not on sale in the usual food stores.

In the absence of religious tuition, it is problematical whether Russia's devout Jewish community can endure for an unlimited period of time. The closure of synagogues appears to represent, not deliberate State action, but the result of diminishing demand for religious facilities.

This government attitude is not confined to the Jews. All religions are treated equally. But the entire basis of Soviet education is directed away from religion, and the only religious influence to which children are susceptible is confined to domestic environment.

BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JORDAN KINGDOM

A REVEALING RECORD OF INFLUENCE

The Jordan Kingdom is now rather like the last straw that awaits the British camel's Middle Eastern back; it may take its place with the Palestine, Persian, Egyptian and Sudanese straws at any moment. For though, in many ways, Jordan is the smallest and least significant of these countries, the consequences of the threatening disintegration of the Kingdom may be more grave than anything that has happened in the Middle East since the war.

★

Jordan is a source of discord in the Arab world. It has been nursed by Britain and sheltered from the hostility of its Arab neighbours, but Britain cannot nurse it much longer, and once it lets go, then the trouble is bound to start.

Yet, if as a preliminary precaution, you go to Whitehall to enquire about this special Anglo-Jordan relationship, the suggestion that it exists is indignantly rejected. Jordan, you are told, is an independent kingdom and the British have surprisingly little say in the conduct of its affairs. That has been the diplomatic stock answer since the end of the second world war. Yet the record is there. It sheds revealing light on the

triangle of British-Jordan-Israel relations at the present time and shows that at every decisive stage in Jordanian politics, that country has had to act according to British wishes and to forego its own.

One might usefully begin by recalling the Emir Abdullah's visit to London in the Spring of 1946. He came with a plan for a Federation of Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq. He was told to bury the plan. Instead he was given a Treaty, a Crown and a subsidy of £2 millions.

The following year, when the U.N. proposal for the partition of Palestine was discussed, Abdullah, now a King, sounded the British Government on a proposal that they should agree to the partition and link Arab Palestine to his Transjordan Kingdom. He was told that his scheme was impracticable and unacceptable. He was made to drop it.

★

Abdullah was, however, promised a consolation prize. This he received in March 1948, when the British withdrawal from Palestine was imminent. He was given a new Treaty, and a larger subsidy; both these facts were made public. But at the same time, a private agreement was reached that when the British withdrew from Palestine two months later, the King's Arab Legion should occupy those parts which were allotted to the Arabs under the partition plan, and also Jerusalem which was scheduled for internationalisation. Abdullah and Glubb agreed that they would not invade any part of the territory allotted to the Jews.

★

Then, on December 1, 1948, with Great Britain's approval, Abdullah reaped his reward: he announced the annexation of Arab Palestine. The Arab League, and even the friendly Iraq, furiously opposed the move. The Palestinian Arabs were not enthusiastic. But, with the British at his side, Abdullah rode roughshod and unconcerned over the combined opposition and the threat of expulsion from the League. He ratified the annexation, was crowned King in Jerusalem, recognised by the United Kingdom, and his subsidy stepped up once more.

Later that year, Abdullah refused to subscribe to the Arab League's support for the internationalisation of Jerusalem. With the British to support him, he suc-

cessfully rejected both the pleas of his fellow Arabs, the Christian Churches, the United States and the United Nations. And then came the crucial February 1950.

At Shuneh on the Dead Sea, Abdullah was negotiating with two Israel representatives for the ending of the state of war and the conclusion of a five year non-aggression pact. The heads of the agreement had been settled and initialled when news of the proposed settlement leaked out in Cairo. The Arab League again threatened to expel Abdullah if he made a separate peace with Israel. The King was prepared to take the risk. He consulted the Foreign Office and told them of his inclination. He was told to desist; not to isolate himself from the Arab world; and not to go on with his peace efforts. From then on he gave up.

★

Since then there has been no material change in the situation—except that Abdullah is dead and Jordanian hostility to Great Britain has increased in the same ratio as Jordanian dependence on British financial and diplomatic support has increased. The British Government pays for Jordan's armed forces and police; it provides the senior officers for both. Britain and the United States pay the lion's share for the upkeep of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan, and make up the large trading deficit by additional loans and subsidies. The Jordan Kingdom today is therefore not much more than an artificial, unstable, and ruinous projection of Whitehall.

★

It may be that the time has come to retrace some of the steps that have been taken in recent years. Thus at the time of the annexation of Arab Palestine by Transjordan, the Arab League declared that as far as it was concerned, Arab Palestine was held only in trust by the Jordan Kingdom until such time as a final decision could be taken. The time may now soon be ripe for this problem to be reconsidered. Arab Palestine may have a more natural future linked economically with Israel as foreseen in the U.N. partition plan, rather than tied to Transjordan with which it has, apart from language, little in common.

The great danger in the Jordanian position lies in the continued blind faith of Whitehall that if only the British cling long enough to the *status quo* something will yet turn up in Amman that won't look too much like Major Salem.

Jon Kimche.

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IN THE NEWS

SHAWCROSS: TWO VIEWS

I have been taking a private Gallup Poll on audience reaction to Sir Hartley Shawcross at the Inaugural Dinner in aid of the Haifa Technion last week. I must report that reaction to the first part of Sir Hartley's speech, that dealing with Quibya, has been violently divided. But the interesting feature is that the division was not along expected lines.

Let me recall first what happened: Shawcross opened a little laboriously for one so polished. He wanted to express his distress and anxiety about Quibya without offending his hosts, and he did so in an evidently sincere and troubled manner in which no platitude remained unturned. The non-Jews at the dinner were shocked and clearly embarrassed. One, an official who had been closely concerned with the whole incident and shared fully the British Government's views, said that it was as much out of place for Sir Hartley to speak in this manner on an occasion such as this, as it would have been if the Chairman had discoursed on the art of managing Mau Mau.

CHIEF RABBI'S LESSON

But most of the Jews I questioned thought differently. They applauded the refined manner of the reservation and



At the Inaugural Dinner in aid of the Haifa Technion—The Chief Rabbi, Dr. Israel Brodie, Mr. I. M. Sieff and Sir Hartley Shawcross.



Councillor Richardson of Hull—from "firegoy to Lord Mayor."

reproof uttered by the ex-Attorney-General, and they admired the manner in which he had assimilated the facts about the Technion and the grace with which he presented them.

Personally, I would have been somewhat unhappy had the issue been left at that. But the evening of far too many speeches was saved by the Chief Rabbi's dignified and pointed reply to the Toast. Speaking slowly, and with a grace of language, he extemporised a reply which impressed everyone who was present—and most of all my non-Jewish friends. This was essentially a dinner with a difference; those present were clearly interested in furthering technical development in Israel and in the British Committee for this purpose.

YOUTH ALIYAH'S ADMIRAL

There is about only one Jew for every 1,500 non-Jews in Hull. I was therefore doubly curious to find out what "pull" this small community had on the city fathers. For once every year, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff for the City and County of Kingston upon Hull attend in full ceremonial the Annual Dinner of the Bnai Brith Lodge in aid of the Youth Aliyah Appeal. In the stately surroundings of the Hull Guildhall, I found the answer after the impressive formalities of the dinner and the exceptional tastiness of the food (which shamed even that at the most expensive London functions), in the quiet informality of the Lord Mayor's "parlour."

Councillor Albert Richardson recalled

how he had grown up among the poor Jews of Hull, half-a-century ago, often immigrants who had landed in Hull and stayed there. He was their "fire-goy," he told me, and with relish he recalled how, on a Friday night, he had gone from house to house lighting fires or putting them out; and how he had rarely gone unrewarded—even from the poorest.

HULL'S JEWS

Now Councillor Richardson is Lord Mayor of Britain's third largest port and, by ancient tradition, Admiral of the Humber. He told his Jewish fellow-citizens that he was not doing them a favour by providing the Guildhall nor by their Civic presence; Hull's Jews had a right to this by virtue of their contribution to Hull's civic life. Hull's Jews were always in the forefront and though they were few in numbers they contributed the lion's share to many good causes. They did this also last Thursday when they contributed £700 to the initial appeal for the Youth Aliyah.

HOLLYWOOD'S ISRAEL

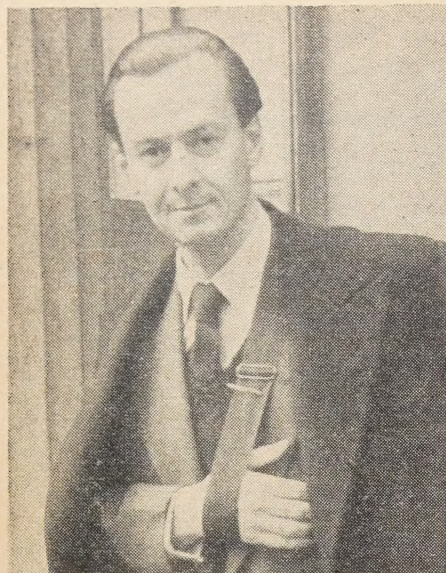
As a result of the controversy that blew up around the Kirk Douglas picture, "The Juggler," I paid a visit this week to the Berkeley Cinema where the film is being given its English premiere. I must confess that it is difficult for me to see what all the fuss has been about.

The film is an unexceptionable romantic drama of the experiences of a mentally sick German immigrant, a survivor of the concentration camps, who arrived in Israel in 1949, but the treatment removes any undue realism from the sociological problem and Kirk Douglas, of course, makes an attractive if not always convincing psychopath. With the exception of the authentic and fascinating Palestinian background, it is a Hollywood Israel—by which I mean that the appropriate American sentiments have been incorporated and everyone is humane, gentle, whimsical and handsome, with a few inevitable exceptions.

Nevertheless, "The Juggler" is an unusual attempt by the adventurous Stanley Kramer, who produced the film, and Edward Dmytryk, who directed it, to make an interesting contemporary movie about real people. They were inhibited, one feels, by the exigencies of popular appeal, but for all that "The Juggler" is a definite advance on most celluloid romances and should be of exceptional interest for Jewish audiences and those interested in Israel and the Middle East.

(A review of the novel "The Juggler" is on page 14.)

15/1/54. Kingold



Julian Amery—withdrawal "a rash gamble."

SUEZ: TWO VIEWS

I have been trying to get a closer view of the differences over the future of the Suez Canal that exist inside both the Conservative and the Labour parties. Two of the principal opponents on this question, Richard Crossman, Labour, and Julian Amery, leader of a Conservative back-bench "revolt" against British evacuation of the Canal Zone, summed up the pros and cons succinctly.

The chief factor in the situation is that the attempt to maintain a base in hostile territory makes the base useless, says Crossman. Apart from that, "an impossible situation" *vis-à-vis* Egypt had been created by the failure of the British to redeem their repeated promises to withdraw.

Also, not only did the Base cost £50 million a year to maintain, but its continued existence required the majority of regular N.C.O.'s to remain separated from their wives, which seriously impeded recruitment to the Regular Army.

For all these reasons Crossman looked forward to an Anglo-Egyptian agreement that would provide for

- ¶ the withdrawal of fighting troops;
- ¶ the retention of sufficient technicians to maintain the Base;
- ¶ the "cast-iron" right to return in case of an imminent threat to the Middle East.

SAFEGUARDS FOR ISRAEL

How would Israel's position be affected by an agreement on these lines? I asked Crossman. There was no doubt, he replied, that the *unconditional* with-

drawal of British troops from Suez would increase the risk to Israel. To guard against this, he wants three conditions written into any agreement with Egypt:

- ¶ the provision of any military aid to Egypt must be made conditional on its not being used against any of Egypt's neighbours;
- ¶ there must be a definite understanding that any U.S. economic aid to Egypt would be cut off should Egypt make any hostile moves;
- ¶ Lastly, and most important, an agreement should be made whereby Anglo-American troops took over the Gaza strip, together with its population of 120,000 Arab refugees.

Elaborating this last point Crossman said "Anglo-Americanisation" of the Gaza strip would achieve the dual object of pacifying Israel's southern frontier and enable a start to be made on the problem of the refugees. They could be used to build the port, barracks and other installations required by part of the troops withdrawn from Suez.

It would be "highly irresponsible" for Britain to withdraw her troops from Suez without some such conditions, Crossman added. Israel was entitled to urge that a small, strong force of British troops remain in the area.

AMERY: "A RASH GAMBLE"

My other interlocutor, Julian Amery, a convinced opponent of withdrawal from Suez, strongly disputed the argument that a military base could not be held in hostile territory. He called this "a novel military doctrine." Iraq's hostility in the last war had not prevented the British from holding on to their bases there. Nor had the Germans in the last war ever been denied the use of their bases in occupied territory by resistance forces.

What prospect of stability was there in Egypt? Amery asked. Nguib had challenged the old ruling group and so far made only unfulfilled promises to the *fellahin*. He did not dare to permit free elections or a free press because of the Wafd. His power rested on the Army exclusively.

For these reasons Mr. Amery thought it would be a "rash gamble" to rely on Egyptian goodwill. The Sudan Agreement had been breached and the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement itself unilaterally denounced in 1951. It was not as though the Egyptians were prepared to be our allies. If they were, the situation would change fundamentally.



Crossman—withdraw, with conditions.

As far as Israel was concerned he saw an identity of interests between it and Great Britain. If British troops withdrew, no forces would be left to enforce the Tripartite Declaration of 1951. This would leave Nguib free to lead the Arab world against Israel. But so long as British power remained in the Middle East, neither Jews nor Arabs need be alarmed. But if the policing force left, a free-for-all would be the consequence. In this situation the United States would have to pay great regard to Arab goodwill—for nothing else would remain.

CRITICISM OF U.S.

What Britain wanted in the Canal Zone could certainly be reconciled with Egyptian nationalism, Amery continued. In a remote part of Egypt, it was to maintain a few thousand technicians and a small number of troops—say, 5-10,000—and airplanes. To secure this aim, Britain had carried non-intervention in Egyptian affairs to its extreme limit.

The United States did not propose allowing the Turks as much control over their bases in Turkey, as the British were giving the Egyptians in the Canal Zone, Amery commented.

Amery concluded: "It seems strange that the United States which is so critical of India's reluctance to declare openly for the West and is exerting so much pressure on Western Europe to conclude the E.D.C. agreement, should apply their pressure in the Middle East to turn the largest military base in the world from their leading ally to a neutralist government, which is known to harbour communist or communist-inspired elements, and whose military ambitions, if any, favour a private war in the Middle East against Israel."

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ISRAEL'S SOCIALISM EXAMINED

By YAAKOV MORRIS

Outside observers of the Israel political scene have always found the life of its left-wing parties difficult to understand. Mechanically projecting their own experience to Israel, they have failed to grasp the unique differences involved. It is natural of course to think of Mapai as a reproduction of the British Labour Party; Mapam, as Zionist 'fellow-travellers' of the Communist world; the Hapoel Hamizrachi and Poalei Agudat Israel as types of religious socialists found so often in Europe. All of these comparisons are partly true—but to so very limited an extent that they distort the picture.

East European Heritage: For an understanding of Israel's left parties, it is essential to go back to the period between the *Second Aliyah* and the achievement of independence.

At the outset, Israel's left parties drew their ideological heritage from the Russian Revolution and East European Socialism. It was a socialism which developed under an autocratic Czarist State with its oppression of nationalities. Israel's socialists were also moulded by the particular character of Jewish life: its ghettos, its aspirations towards national independence and its cultural renaissance. All of them were united in the common Zionist aim of achieving their socialist goals by Jewish territorial concentration in a National Home, the creation of a working class through colonisation, and the establishment of agriculture and industry.

This mixture of East European and Jewish tradition, Zionist aspirations and active colonisation stamped itself on every left-Zionist party.

Small Factions Disappear: In the early days, the movement was characterised by dozens of hair-splitting factions. Every shade of leftist thought was represented—Marxist, Social-Democrat, followers of Tolstoy, Social Revolutionaries, Anarchists, Syndicalists, and so on. But the moment they were confronted by Palestine reality as it then was, two developments took place—those who failed to combine their imported ideology with the practical tasks facing the early pioneers, disappeared from the political scene; splinter groups and small units merged into larger and more defined organisations.

It is impossible here to give more than a very rough outline of the main developments and bring forward some salient

facts which throw light on the policies of the left parties which Israel has inherited.



An increasing political role is being played by Mapam's Yigal Allon, best known as the Palmach Commander.

The Events of 1929: The two main parties of Israel's Left can trace their history from the year 1929. It was then that Mapai came into being through the merger of the Achdut Ha'Avoda, which followed Borochoy's teachings, and Hapoel Hatzair, a party influenced by the theories of A. D. Gordon. The former were orthodox Marxists who believed in class struggle and revolutionary socialism; the latter believed that, through a return to soil and productive labour, the individual and nation would be redeemed, a society based upon work and social justice would evolve, and the "national soul" would free itself from injustice.



Meir Wilner—"Anti-Zionist" Communist leader.

Naturally, both these definitions are over-simplifications, but it is sufficient to stress here that one group looked upon the achievement of socialism through a change in the social order, the other by education and the practice of a new way of life.

These diverse groups were united by their joint belief in Zionist pioneering, the cornerstone of their activity. On this basis, the new party evolved the conception of one united organisation wide enough to include all shades of socialist opinion. Thus Mapai assumed the character of a mass party, united on the basis of its practical Zionist action, but with divisions in its ranks on directly socialist issues. Although it claimed a synthesis between the two, it never quite succeeded in overcoming the original differences of the partners who formed it. That these original differences continued throughout the years of unity, was amply demonstrated when the Achdut Ha'Avoda faction (*Siah Beth*), which was the party's left wing, finally withdrew from Mapai and later joined with Hashomer Hatzair to form Mapam.

Apart from these political cross-currents, other groups reflecting varying interests became defined, such as those based upon kibbutz sector, moshav movement and urban wage labourers.

Bolsheviks With a Difference: It was also in 1929 that the basis was laid for the later formation of Mapam. At that time the members of Hashomer Hatzair refused to accept the idea of one party embracing all shades of socialist opinion. They held to the tradition of the Russian Bolsheviks who looked to a highly centralised revolutionary party with a single ideology. But whereas the Bolsheviks, and most other modern socialists, had always regarded the industrial workers as the natural leaders of the struggle for socialism, Hashomer Hatzair thought that in Palestine this leadership must come from the peasantry—in other words its kibbutzim. This idea was later to have a major effect on the policies of Mapam.

Hashomer Hatzair thus decided to build up its own political group based on the kibbutzim and, as an auxiliary, to form its independent Socialist League in the towns. Later, in 1947, with the Achdut Ha'Avoda which had left Mapai, and a third small group—Poalei Zion Smol—they combined to form the United Workers' Party of Mapam.

Religion and Labour: Of quite a different type and background were the small religious labour parties which had

also evolved in pre-State days. The Hapoel Hamizrachi had developed from two main origins. Its religious precepts differentiated it from the other parties of the labour movement and so it maintained its organisational ties with the right-wing Mizrachi Party. But its pioneer and labour character eventually compelled it to form its own party, which co-operated with Mizrachi on religious issues but was separated from it on class grounds. Its membership was composed both of urban workers and collective and co-operative rural settlers. The Poalei Agudat Israel had a similar relationship with the right-wing Agudat Israel, but differed from Hapoel Hamizrachi through the extremism of its religious attitude.

The Anti-Zionist Communists: The history of Israel's Communist Party has been for decades one of a small minority group, isolated not only from the majority of the labour movement but from the nation as a whole. Attacking Zionism as "a tool of British imperialism", and viewing the local Arab population as the victim of both, it has consistently held an anti-national position and so could not attract a following. In its eyes, all other parties of the local Jewish labour movement were "reactionary" and it advocated a deal with the Arab population on the basis of abdication of all Jewish aspirations towards national independence.

From this followed the various activities culminating in co-operation with the Mufti (1936-39) and other reactionary elements in the Arab camp.

Special Features Due to Zionism: Thus, until Statehood, a number of peculiarities, unique to the country, were apparent in the nature of Israel's main left parties. In those days, no party could develop unless it combined its political programme with constructive efforts towards building the National Home.

Both the Communist Party and Left Poalei Zion, by default, ideally illustrated this point. The former had but a handful of supporters owing to its anti-Zionist stand, while the latter took many years before it was willing to co-operate with "bourgeois Zionists", and scorned the idea that one of its main tasks as a political party was to establish kibbutzim or other villages. Unlike its two future partners, Hashomer Hatzair and Achdut Ha'Avoda, it then rejected the theory of the villages leading the towns in the struggle for socialism.

A second peculiarity, deriving from the first, was that the major left parties could depend upon a guaranteed mass vote, attracted not only by political



Yitzhak Raphael is a prominent representative of the religious Socialist group Hapoel Hamizrachi.

programmes but in defence of their material interests too. Kibbutzim, moshavim and others within the sphere of the labour economy, found their politics and day-to-day living intimately related.

This point has been emphasised in the recent split which occurred in many settlements of the Kibbutz Hameuchad. When political divisions reached the stage of unbearable tension, the result was the economic and physical division of the settlements concerned. In other words, the acceptance of practical colonisation as a vital part of their programmes had

given Israel's left parties a vested interest.

Peasants Lead Class Struggle: Emphasis has been laid here upon the rural workers because, in Mandatory times, it was the agricultural villages which led the labour movement. In many cases, settlements were established near towns and moshavot (where members worked as hired labour) in order that their colonists could lead the struggle for the urban worker.

This was so in varying degrees for both Mapai and Mapam, even though Mapai had a considerable urban following. In all activities, whether they were national, as in the case of Hagana, immigrant absorption and settlement, or local in the form of building co-operatives, trade union activities and party organisations, the main activists were either members or ex-members of rural settlements.

Above all, working within the common framework of Zionism imposed limitations both on the revolutionary and reformist character of the main left parties. For example, both Mapai and Mapam accepted the fact that the working class had to co-operate with the Zionist bourgeoisie in the upbuilding of the country. Therefore, they worked closely with the bourgeoisie in attracting capital to the land as a basis for immigrant absorption, in assisting to create a new working class, and in attracting further immigration through common forms of national education. Where they differed was on the means of achieving these aims, and their final goals.

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BOOKS

NOVELS OF EXILE

By EMANUEL LITVINOFF

THE JUGGLER, by Michael Blankfort
(Valentine Mitchell, 10s. 6d.).

NINE DAYS TO MUKALLA, by Frederic Prokosch (Secker & Warburg, 12s. 6d.).

THE WELL OF GERAR, by Ruben Rothgiesser (Jewish Publication Society, \$3.00).

A characteristic, one could almost say key, theme of contemporary literature is that of the exile, the man without country, without tradition, without faith. The modern exile is no heroic Ulysses sailing amid perils to Ithaca, but a victim whose haphazard survival has often been gained at the price of psychological deformity.

Michael Blankfort's juggler, Hans Müller, is precisely this kind of victim. He has survived the concentration camps which claimed his wife, children and friends, and arrives in Israel as an immigrant. There the nightmare past still pursues him. The immigrant camp is just another concentration camp; the friendly Jewish police are just *Kapos* like those in Belsen or Dachau; if there are no enemies beyond the barbed wire, there are also no friends.

Unable to endure the ghosts that haunt him in the immigrant centre, Hans Müller, whose one treasured possession is a scrap-book of notices about his career as a juggler, breaks out of the camp and savagely beats-up a Jewish policeman who tries to persuade him to go back.

With the juggler dangerously at large, the novel develops into a manhunt. The hunter is a strictly Orthodox detective-sergeant, a sort of Jewish "Father Brown," who pursues Hans Müller according to a curious metaphysical logic which would carry, I suspect, no more conviction in the *yeshivah* than it would in Scotland Yard.

Nevertheless, the author being in a privileged position in his own novel, the pious policeman's deductions prove correct; but Hans Müller is redeemed not by the Law, civil or ecclesiastical, but by the love of a good woman and a young Israeli boy, as is to be expected from Mr. Blankfort, who is a Hollywood scenario writer.

This is not a novel to be taken too seriously, therefore. Grave psychological disorders, like the juggler's, are not cured by sentimental happy endings, no matter how convenient it would be for novelists if they were. Nor can "The Juggler" be said to convey more than an approximate idea of Israeli realities, for all its public relations gusto; but it is entertaining and has provided the material for an unusually interesting film, which is perhaps sufficient justification.

Frederic Prokosch's "Nine Days to Mukalla" is the story of four survivors of a crashed airplane on an island near Arabia. The situation has been over-worked, but in the hands of a writer of imagination it is still dramatic and Prokosch is an artist of subtlety and skill. His four Westerners, two men and two women, are enriched by their forced exile from "civilised" society, although their experience is aesthetic rather than vital.

In general, Prokosch's novel is an expression of the romantic yearning of many intellectuals for a way of life that is more sensuous and more colourful than our own. More than elucidating the condition of exile, the author reveals his own dislocation from society, that of a Ulysses in flight from Ithaca and the importuning suitors.

"The Well of Gerar" is a piece of didactic fiction set in the eighteenth century. The hero, of the novel is Isaac Nassi, a young Jew in search of security and emancipation, not for himself alone but for his people. Nassi is seen in South America, Amsterdam, East Europe, Paris, but these are not so much places as levels of experience. Eventually, Nassi returns to South America, to an outpost settlement, Savannah, established by his father as the first Jewish settlement in the New World. He has journeyed, as far as is possible within the framework of the

novel, through most of the existing Jewish philosophies of survival and has found them all unsatisfactory. Now there is one thing left—self-defence behind the stockades of a beleaguered settlement.

Savannah, in this connection, can, I suppose, be symbolic of Israel, particularly as the farms in the settlement bear biblical names. The analogy with modern Israel would be a little tenuous, however, and it is up to the reader to make his own interpretation of the novel. For my own part, I have doubts of the validity of the fictional method used here in the discussion of Jewish survival.

POOR MAN'S MOSES

PRINCE OF EGYPT, by Dorothy Chamberlain Wilson. (Lutterworth 12s. 6d.)

Mrs. Wilson has written a readable novel about Moses from the period of his childhood to the final liberation of the Jews from Egypt. It is not clear, though, what the book intends. She writes:

"There I found (in ancient Egypt) a society faced with a set of social problems amazingly modern: displaced peoples, totalitarianism, oppressed minorities, labour unrest, group exploitation, strikes. . . ." Then why not write a modern novel? Too often is this kind of parallel a way out of a problem that sets the author too many difficulties.

But if the book is intended as an embellishment of Bible history, Mrs. Wilson should have left it unwritten. The original is good enough. "And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptian fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea." Notice the small sentence "and the Egyptians fled against it." It would have taken a modern novelist five pages to give us that.

Evidently the author believes she can improve on the original story, for she has found it necessary to add as many flagrant alterations as there are sections. She has also drawn upon Moses' sexual life from a source unknown to the Bible. She refers to three mistresses, whose intimacies she—delicately—veils at the crucial moments.

It would be untrue to say the story is badly written. But a competent style in no way compensates for the loss of grandeur of the Exodus, or the exclusiveness of Moses' steel-like and, sometimes, ruthless personality.

Jon Silkin

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AMONG THE RUSSIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS

EAST END RECOLLECTIONS, III

By ISRAEL COHEN

Life in the East End was anything but quiet and restful. Not only was I disturbed by the constant heavy traffic in the road beneath my attic-window, but also by the jangling chains of a flour-mill a few yards away, by hurdy-gurdies, piano-organs, and the frequent din of a German brass band. At night there was the singing of a Yiddish amateur operatic society on the other side of the road, who rehearsed four times a week and gave rollicking performances at the week-end.

On the other hand, I found life there stimulating, instructive, and even inspiring. I gained an insight into the problems of East End Jewry and the issues that divided it from West End Jewry; I found my way into the dual realm of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature by browsing in Mazin's bookshop; and I was prompted to my first literary efforts.

Birth of "Enoch Scribe": A Purim story that I sent to Mr. S. L. Bensusan, then Editor of the *Jewish World*, was accepted and published in March, 1898. As students of Jews' College were expected not to engage in any work outside their studies, except a little teaching, I adopted the pseudonym of "Enoch Scribe" (Enoch being an anagram of my surname). My first contribution was followed in the same paper by a series of sketches under the general title of "Ghetto Types," after which I began to write short stories for a new monthly, *Young Israel*, which was edited by Leopold J. Greenberg.

Strolling along Mile End Waste one Saturday night, where there was a long array of stalls lit up by naphtha lamps, I came across a decrepit bookstall with a shabby owner, who was offering cheap paper-backed novels to the staring crowd. I described the scene and the haggard-looking hawker in a sketch entitled "Disseminator of Literature," which was published in the weekly journal, *Literature*, edited by H. D. Traill, and published by *The Times*. I also wanted to have a story published by the *Jewish Chronicle*, but as its Editor, Asher Myers, was a member of the Council of Jews' College, I wrote to him over my pseudonym, from the Chelsea address of my friend, the artist, Henry Ospovat. The story was accepted and appeared in the *Jewish Chronicle* of

March 16, 1900. It was my first contribution in this journal.

The "Bund" in London: In the course of my rambles in the neighbourhood of Brick Lane, I was attracted one night by a red lamp over an open doorway. On the slanting pane was painted the one word *Volkshaus*, and when I entered I found myself in a long, narrow room, crowded with excited young men and girls, debating, gesticulating, and smoking. It was a political club—the meeting-place of the London branch of the Bund.

On the walls were portraits of Karl Marx, Bakunin, and other heroes of Socialism; on some reading stands were papers in Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, and German; and on a bookstall was a motley assortment of Yiddish and Russian booklets, mostly dealing with Socialism and the revolutionary agitation in Russia, and including Yiddish translations from Marx, Lassalle, and Kropotkin. Most of these publications were printed in London, but I was told that Geneva was the chief printing centre of the Bund outside the Tsar's dominions.

Under Orthodox and Anarchist Attack: The *Volkshaus* was situated between two synagogues, and as its mem-

bers were known to be irreligious its windows were often broken by little boys who were incited by their orthodox parents to throw stones and dirt. Disturbances were also often caused by a band of Anarchists, who attended the lectures given there solely for the purpose of interrupting and creating disorder.

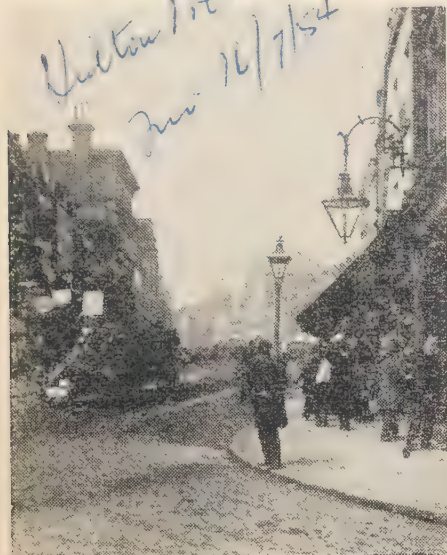
Not only did I describe the animated scenes and curious characters in this *Volkshaus* in an article published by C. P. Scott in the *Manchester Guardian*, but I drew from it for months an abundance of interesting material, which I used for contributions to other papers. Most Jewish political refugees from Russia found their way there, and I was able to gather from them sensational stories. Many of them had assumed false names to outwit the Russian police, and those who arrived here with a beard had it removed the next day.

Hero of "Potemkin" Revolt: In a Shoreditch garret I had a talk with a strapping young fellow, Mordecai Strick, who had been in the Russian Army. He related to me the ingenious plot by means of which he had effected the escape from the Sebastopol Prison of Feldman, the hero of the famous revolt on the ship *Potemkin* on the Black Sea, and he drew for me a sketch of the interior of the jail to show me how he had tricked the warders.

Far different was the talk that I had



This stretch of Whitechapel, as seen from Aldgate, was familiar to the many immigrants who found their way to the Jewish Shelter in a neighbouring street.



On the fringe of London's ghetto—
Shoreditch at the turn of the century.

with a ninety-five year old Jewish woman in Stepney, a Mrs. Hart, who formed a link with Nelson. She told me that her father, whose name was Richard Barnett, had been forced into the Navy by a press-gang, fought on board Nelson's *Vanguard* in the Battle of the Nile, and was afterwards bought out by his father.

Nile Battle Log-Book: In support of her statements she showed me an interesting log-book that had been kept by her father during the voyage of the *Vanguard*, extending from December 3rd, 1797, to January 31st, 1800. This private record, which must have been a contravention of the regulations, consisted of eleven faded and worm-eaten sheets of quarto size. It contained a fairly detailed account of the Battle of the Nile, which was illustrated by a sort of plan of the fight and accompanied by a list of the casualties. Richard Barnett, who was probably one of the first Jewish sailors in the English Navy, was born in 1779 and died on June 20th, 1819. He was an uncle of Samuel Phillips, a man of letters, who was a literary critic of *The Times* and a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine*, and who was held to be of sufficient importance to have his bust displayed in the Crystal Palace.

Enquiry into Aliens Act: My associations with the East End stood me in good stead when I was on the staff of *The Tribune*, that great but ill-fated Liberal daily, which only lived for two years. From the beginning of 1906 the Aliens Act, which had been passed by the Conservative Government just before it went out of power, came into force, and as its principal victims were

Russian Jews I volunteered to inquire into its administration.

The Act provided for the continued admission of refugees from political and religious persecution, as well as of persons who had in their possession at least five pounds or had relatives in England who would support them and prevent them from becoming a charge on public funds. I used to go every morning to the London Docks where the immigrant ships arrived and where a special Board met to examine the aliens in order to decide which of them could be admitted. Journalists were not allowed to enter the room where the examination was held, but had to stand about outside and wait for such fragments of information as they could afterwards pick up.

The Secretary of the Jews' Temporary Shelter (the late Abraham Mundy), the East End institution for befriending immigrants, was, however, permitted, as a matter of grace, to be present at the hearings, and he took me in with him as his assistant. I was thus able not only to make a note of the Board's decision in each case but also to talk to the immigrants and gather from them more particulars than the members of the Board elicited before arriving at their judgment.

Many Rejected: I was also allowed to go on to the ships to talk to them. I thus found that owing partly to faulty interpretation by an official, partly to a misreading of the Act by the Board, and partly to the natural nervousness of the immigrants who omitted to state facts that should have ensured their admission, many of them were rejected and escorted back to the ship, which had to return them to the German or Dutch port from which they had sailed. The fate that there awaited them was to be transported back to Russia, and in the case of men who, owing to ill-treatment, had fled from the Russian Army, it meant that they would be shot.

The Tribune therefore, began to expose the injustices and hardships committed by the maladministration of the Act. It published daily names and particulars of immigrants who were entitled by the terms of the Act to admission, but had nevertheless been sent back to what seemed certain death. I collected so much information that my colleague, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, who wrote leaders on the subject, called in his friend, the late Henry W. Nevinson, from the office of the *Daily Chronicle*, so that I could pass some of it on to him, and his paper combined with *The Tribune* to arouse public feeling.



An artist's impression of the Jewish soup kitchen in Whitechapel in the 1890's.

The Case of David Rabinowitz: Gradually the agitation for amending the Act was taken up by all the Liberal papers of the country. It reached a climax when a young Russian Jew, David Rabinowitz, who had deserted from the Russian Army after refusing to fire on his fellow-Jews, and was certainly entitled to asylum in England according to the Act, was sent back to the Continent.

As soon as I brought this news to the office, the Editor decided to save Rabinowitz. He telegraphed to the *Tribune's* correspondent at Hamburg, Albert Kinross, the novelist, to go at once to Bremen to meet the ship on which Rabinowitz was and to buy him a shipping ticket for any place to which he wished to go. Within twenty-four hours a wire was received from Kinross, announcing that he was just in time to prevent Rabinowitz from being handed over to the police, and that he had bought him a ticket for Buenos Aires and seen him safely on board the vessel that was going there.

Questions for Home Secretary: Mr. Brailsford promptly sent particulars of this and other cases by messenger to Ramsay MacDonald, who had recently been elected to the House of Commons for the first time, with a view to putting questions to the Home Secretary, Herbert Gladstone. The result of all this agitation was that the Liberal Government, which had opposed the measure for restricting alien immigration when it was proposed by the Conservatives, issued revised regulations to the Immigration Boards. This was to ensure that in future they exercised clemency in favour of all alien immigrants who were refugees from persecution or who satisfied the economic test.

JEWISH AFFAIRS

ZIONIST FEDERATION YORKSHIRE KEYMEN'S CONFERENCE

The annual Yorkshire Keymen's Conference, held under the auspices of the Zionist Federation and the Leeds Zionist Council, heard Col. Katriel Salmon, Military, Air and Naval Attaché at the Israel Embassy in London, on "The Economic Situation in Israel."

The high incidence of illiteracy among new immigrants contributed to Israel's heavy economic burdens, he said, but he had seen a great improvement in the situation on his recent visit to Israel. Plans had been worked out for an increase of Israel's population to two million by 1960, for a trebling of the area of irrigated land, for half-a-million dunams of grazing land, and also for a great increase in exports.

Colonel Salmon spoke of the tourist industry as a great asset to Israel, and outlined the important work done by the Army in educating new immigrants in citizenship.

Education: The afternoon session opened with an address by Mr. Levi Gertner, Director of the Education Department of the Jewish Agency and Education Secretary of the Zionist Federation. He gave a survey of 18th and 19th century attempts to solve the problem of providing a truly Jewish education in a changing world.

Ahad Ha'am, through Zionism, had come to believe in a modern Jewish education permeated with Judaism. Without the educational work envisaged by Ahad Ha'am the Zionist movement would lose its right to exist, he said.

Mr. Gertner referred to the work of the Jewish Agency in supporting Jewish day-schools, in sending teachers to Israel for short courses and in organising Hebrew seminars (which had created a nucleus of Hebrew speakers).

During the Conference, Mr. Bernard C. Gillinson was presented with a Freeman's Certificate of Nachlat Leeds by Mr. John Goldstone (on behalf of the Leeds Zionist Council) as a tribute to his devoted services as chairman of the Council from 1949 to 1953.

A resolution expressing distress at the British Government's attitude as shown in the recent Security Council Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Conference for submission to Yorkshire M.P.'s.

Rabbi S. Brown, chairman of the Leeds Zionist Council, presided.

Shinwell: Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, M.P., addressed a private meeting of key-workers of the Zionist Federation recently on his impressions of Israel. Other speakers were Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., and Dr. S. Levenberg. Mr. Janus Cohen was in the chair.



Mr. Dan Pines of "Davar" (speaking) and Mr. I. Finkelstein of "Ha'aretz" at the reception.

RECEPTION TO ISRAEL JOURNALISTS

Representatives of four of Israel's best known newspapers were at a Zionist Federation reception on Wednesday of last week, with Mr. Janus Cohen, Chairman of the Zionist Federation, in the Chair. They were: Hugh Orgel (*Jerusalem Post*), I. Finkelstein (*Ha'aretz*), Dan Pines (*Davar*) and Yosef Gromen (*Haboker*).

They heard the Israel press praised by Dr. Levenberg as one of the country's greatest achievements since the Balfour Declaration and as an uncommercialised press serving a cause. But he regretted that they did not give a comprehensive enough picture of Jewish life in the Diaspora. What Dr. Levenberg would like, was an Israel press delegation with the specific aim of studying the Diaspora and, especially, Anglo-Jewry.

Diaspora Jewry's only hope of main-

taining a Jewish life was the link it had with the State of Israel and its culture, said Mr. Richtiger. The press in both spheres could make a great contribution to this aim by enabling Israel to understand the position of Anglo-Jewry. In this connection Mr. Richtiger said he was proud that Anglo-Jewry had sent 4,000 immigrants to Israel.

Replying for the Delegation, Mr. Dan Pines said when a citizen of Britain came to Israel he felt more at home than if he came from any other country. So many of the great leaders of Zionism had lived, worked or studied in Great Britain, he explained.

Mr. Pines hoped that the press would use its influence to strengthen this Anglo-Israel relationship.

DELEGATION "WELCOME HOME"

"As a good Moslem goes to Mecca at least once in his life so should every Jew visit Israel," declared Mr. I. Jezierski, presiding at a reception given by the Zionist Federation to welcome home the recently-returned first Zionist Federation delegation to Israel.

A message was read from Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., President of the Federation.

Dr. S. Levenberg, representing the Jewish Agency, said that tourist facilities in Israel now compared favourably with other countries. For Israel such tourism was important because of the foreign currency it brought, and because it contributed to a mutual understanding with the Jews of the Diaspora.

Mr. Janus Cohen, chairman of the

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Federation, presented to Dr. I. S. Fox, leader of the delegation, a Golden Book certificate inscribed by all the members of the group. He also presented to each member a tree certificate recording the planting of one tree as a memento of the tour. Tributes were also paid to Mr. Englesberg, who had accompanied the party, to Miss S. Shine who had been responsible for preliminary arrangements, and to Mr. S. Temkin, Director of the Zionist Federation Office in Israel.

TECHNION

KARMINSKI AND SHINWELL SUPPORT APPEAL

At a reception in aid of the Israel Institute of Technology, Mr. Justice Karminski spoke of the difficulties in developing Israel which were increased by the influx of destitute and unskilled immigrants from the surrounding Arab countries and elsewhere. Israel now imported ten times more than she exported, and if this frightening gap were ever to be bridged it was necessary for the people of Israel to acquire technical skills, he said.

The many things which the British today took for granted, and which were so limited in Israel, such as an abundant water supply, electricity, modern agriculture, more roads and railways could only become available if a vast army of trained technologists and craftsmen were put into the field. In Israel the Technion bore the sole responsibility for producing these men, and its functions in no way overlapped with those of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Technion was not only a centre of technological learning: it was a means of making Israel self-supporting.

Intolerable Dependence: Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, who also addressed a meeting in aid of the Technion, said that during his recent visit to Israel he was much impressed by the spirit and energy of the people, her agricultural and industrial development, the newly constructed roads, and, in particular, the defence forces, but many of the things accomplished would not have been possible without the help of external funds of a very substantial nature.

While he could not but admire these very real achievements, he felt it was an



A conjuror was one of the attractions at the Pioneer Women's Annual Chanukah party for children.

intolerable situation for any self-respecting country to be permanently dependent on outside aid.

Britain, like Israel, was short of technologists, he said. Technical education here was never popular because it was expensive, but in the long run no technically backward country could hope to survive. If large numbers of highly skilled technologists were important for Britain, they were absolutely indispensable for Israel which was called upon to achieve so much in so short a time. Once Israelis had attained economic self-sufficiency they would have escaped from the feeling of inferiority that arose from their economic dependence on the Jews of the world.

Overriding Tasks: The Technion at present was not nearly large enough to train the required numbers of technologists and it required additional

equipment. Mr. Shinwell thought it would be in Israel's best interests if some of the projects for which money was being contributed from outside could be postponed for the time being and the finance from such sources put to use during the next few years for the overriding purpose of expanding the country's technical training facilities on a really large scale. The use of funds in this way would be of decisive importance in helping Israel to win through in her struggle for self-sufficiency.

Sir Louis Sterling, President of the British Technion Committee, was in the chair.

JEWISH CHILD'S DAY

Jewish Child's Day, which is to be held on Sunday, is designed to raise funds in aid of Jewish children in Great Britain, Israel, North Africa and elsewhere. In this country it helps to provide play centres, club facilities, funds for holiday homes, toys, school dinners and so on. In Israel Jewish Child's Day funds provide clothing, medical necessities, food, educational toys and household goods to schools and institutions. In North Africa, India and Aden funds are provided for Jewish schools, day nurseries and other institutions.

Headquarters of Jewish Child's Day is at Woburn House, London.

DUTCH ZIONISTS

The Editor was the guest of the Dutch Zionist Federation recently. He addressed the Zionist Section of the The Hague on Saturday, November 21 on "Israel's position in the Middle East." The Israel Minister and Mrs. Amir were present. On Sunday afternoon Mr. Kimche addressed the Rotterdam Section of the Dutch Zionist Federation, and on Sunday evening a record audience attended Mr. Kimche's lecture in Amsterdam.

HULL

Professor Norman Bentwich and Mr. Jon Kimche were the Guests of Honour at the Annual Youth Aliyah Dinner at the Guildhall, Hull. The Lord Mayor, the Sheriff and other local dignitaries attended. £700 were subscribed towards the £1,000 appeal.



NOTICE

Owing to pressure on space a number of reports have unavoidably had to be held over until next week.



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PUBLICATIONS

"**LABOUR ISRAEL**," Mapam Journal. For Zionism, Socialism, World Peace. Annual Sub. 4/6d. from Mishmar Publications Ltd., 37 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6.

TRADE NOTICES

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 5th December

EAST LONDON ZIONIST ASSOCIATION—BETH ZION. Adler House, Adler Street, E.1. Shabbat Chanukah M'lave Malka. Guest speaker: Rabbi M. Landy. Guest chazan: Rev. S. Milch. In the chair: M. Cooper, Esq. 7.30 p.m.

FINCHLEY Z.S. Synagogue Hall, Kinloss Gardens, N.3. Grand Chanukah Neshef. Artistes: Julian Gold (Yidel Goldberg), Johanna Metzger, Felix Vandyl, Adela Kotowska, Sylvia Cohen, Paul Lichten-

stern. Address by Dr. I. S. Fox. The Rev. A. Rosenfeld will kindle the lights. B. Rappaport, Esq.—compere. 8.15 p.m.

THEODOR HERZL (HAMPSTEAD) Z.S. Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. Chanukah Neshef. The Rev. Ernst Lewandowski will kindle the lights. Recital by Mrs. Alice Freeman-Schwarz (Soprano). At the piano: Miss Lucy Glaser. 8 p.m.

Sunday, 6th December

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB Z.S. "Shirah," The Bishops Avenue, N.2 (by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Austin). Grand Chanukah Concert with Theodore M. Bikel and the Rev. E. Freilich. In aid of Zionist Funds. 7 p.m.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE (N.W.). 19 Sidmouth Road, N.W.2 (buses 1 and 8 to Sidmouth Road, or trolley 660 or 664 to Willesden Lane). Mr. Harold Soref: "The Danger of Zionism to Anglo-Jewry." 7.45 p.m.

Monday, 7th December

CLAPTON Z.S. Zion House, 75 Cazenove Road, N.16. Grand Chanukah Film Show. 8 p.m.

GOLDERS GREEN Z.S. Barclay House, 783 Finchley Road, N.W.11. Chanukah Neshef. Guest speaker: R. Amir, Esq. The Rev. M. Taschlicky will kindle the lights. Recital by Ulli Shocken (Soprano) of the Habimah (Tel-Aviv).

At the piano: Adele Megido. In the chair: Mordecai Levene, Esq., LL.B. 8.15 p.m.

Tuesday, 8th December

HIGHGATE Z.S. Synagogue Hall, 200a Archway Road, N.6. Chanukah Neshef. The Rev. E. Nemeth will kindle the lights. Ann Lecker: Jewish Humour. Recital by Ulli Shocken (Soprano) of the Habimah (Tel-Aviv). At the piano: Adele Megido. In the chair: I. Hershman, Esq. 8 p.m.

WEMBLEY & DISTRICT Z.S. Synagogue New Hall, Forty Avenue, Wembley. Grand Chanukah Film Evening ("Tent City," "My Brother and I," Shelley Winters in "Doing the Impossible," etc.). Admission Free (including refreshments). 8.15 p.m.

WEST LONDON Z.S. Communal Hall, Hammersmith Synagogue, 71 Brook Green, W.6. Chanukah Celebration. The Rev. M. Katanka will kindle the lights. Presentation of Tree Certificates to Mr. and Mrs. H. Gelpsmann, by the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A. and to Mr. and Mrs. W. Ferst, by the Rev. R. Feldman. Opening by Mr. H. H. Bayes. Musical items by Mr. M. Moser; at the piano: Mrs. B. Pottersman. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 9th December

MUSWELL HILL Z.S. Athenaeum, N.10. Discussion on Topical Issues—introduced by Dr. L. Schafer. In the chair: H. L. Grunberg, Esq. 8.15 p.m.



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FULL STRIDE IN NEGEV OIL DRILLING

By DAVID GROSSMAN

Work on "Mazal 1," the first oil well to be sunk in the country, got into its stride on November 3rd, on a site seven kilometres south-west of S'dom after a brief ceremony attended by the Minister of Development, Dr. Dov Joseph, and representatives of the companies sponsoring the work. The brown, three-legged derrick, looking rather like an enormous camera tripod, stands 60 feet high on the great Dead Sea escarpment. The steady beat of the percussion drill fills the area with an encouraging industrial sound.

The oilmen are doing "wildcat" work drilling in virgin territory. Except for some ten experimental bores made in the course of geological investigation in 1946-47 by Mr. M. Novomeysky's Jordan Exploration Company at the opposite (northern) end of the Dead Sea, no well has been sunk in Israel. Neither the Lapidot Company representatives, nor the men on the site, were willing to commit themselves to a statement about the depth at which oil might be found.

Heaviest Type Drill: The drill now operating at "Mazal 1" is a Walker-Neev percussion type, the heaviest of its kind. It works rather like a pile driver, hammering its way through the ground under its own two-and-a-half tons weight. A

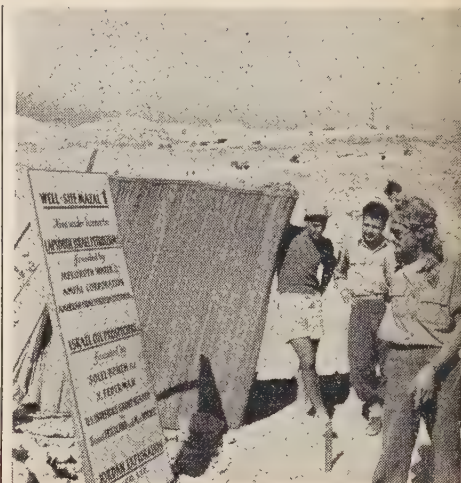
170-h.p. Caterpillar engine lifts the bit 30 inches for each stroke.

The drill bores about 30 feet in 24 hours, and the whole apparatus will be kept going, from now onwards, for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Every five to ten feet samples of the chippings will be examined by geologists. Lower down the hill are the asphalt deposits which were taken into account by the geologists when selecting the site.

Apart from the geologists, who come out to the site for routine visits, there are a dozen oilmen there with a great fund of experience between them. Typical of the five Americans is Mr. W. H. Butcher, of Oklahoma, who said that he "entered the business" in 1909 and worked in Ohio, Arkansas, West Virginia and many other States, as well as in countries as far afield as Portuguese East Africa.

Mr. Butcher retired over a year ago but, when invited to come out here, to "wildcat country," liked the idea well enough to return to the work.

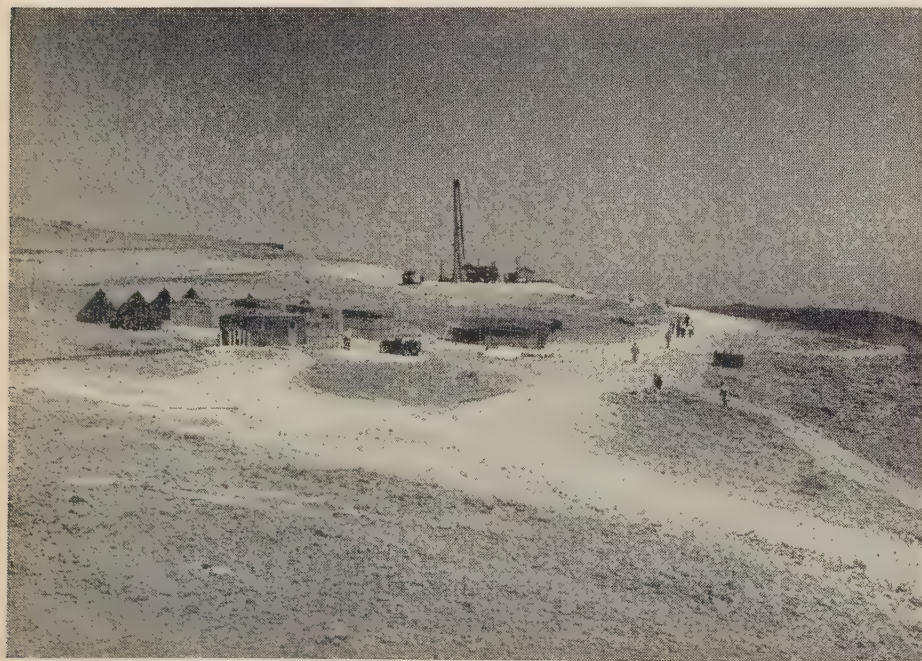
Two Drills on Way: Two rotary drills are already on their way here. At a certain stage of the work, the percussion drill may be exchanged for a rotary which can reach 15,000 feet, as opposed to the percussion drill's 10,000. The per-



Working camp of the project.

cussion drill uses less water—a serious problem in the area.

Three companies are sponsoring the work: Lapidot, the Israel Oil Prospecting Company and the Jordan Exploration Company. They have a 700,000 dunam concession in this area. Should they strike oil, 40 per cent. of the concession land will be returned to the Government, and 12½ per cent. of the oil will go to the Government as royalties.



First drilling for oil at "Mazal No. One" near S'dom.

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JPA-JNF NEWS

FEITELSON TREE NURSERY: TITLE DEEDS AWARDED

At a gathering representative of all communal organisations in Southend and Westcliff, and with the attendance of Zionist leaders from London, the Feitelson Tree Nursery project had its culmination last Sunday in the presentation, at the Westward Ho! Hotel, of the Title Deeds to Mr. Leon Feitelson, president of the Southend and Westcliff Jewish community. The presentation was made by Rabbi P. Shebson. The occasion was one of unique tribute to the personality and record of Leon Feitelson, and for his monument of good works in this well-organised Jewish community.

Community Record: The chair was taken by Mr. I. Freedman, leader of the J.N.F. Commission. He indicated the strength and devotion of Southend and Westcliff Jewry by offering statistics of its Zionist contribution during the last few years. Under the guidance of Mr. Feitelson he said amidst applause, the J.P.A. had benefited by no less than £55,000 since 1946 as a result of their activities. The J.N.F. contribution had been £28,000. In 1946 they had 80 J.N.F. boxes. Now there were 800. The Feitelson Tree Nursery, he said, had been a £10,000 project initiated in 1951 and brought to fruition by the participation of all local organisations together with generous donations from the Feitelson family.

He called the gathering to a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of the late Sophie Feitelson in whose name, together with her husband's, the Deeds were inscribed.

Messages: Congratulatory messages, read by Mr. M. Franks, were from H.E. The Israel Ambassador, Dr. A. Granott, Mr. S. Gestetner, the president of the Board of Deputies, the honorary officers of the J.P.A., Rabbi Kopul Rosen, Mr. Monty Webber, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Osterley and Mr. and Mrs. Kaufman.

Mr. H. Barnett, vice-president of the community and chairman of the Feitelson Tree Nursery committee, pointed out that Leon Feitelson had led the congregation for 20 years; while Mrs. B. C. Narod, retiring chairman of WIZO, offered felicitations on behalf of the women Zionists and said that this Nursery testified to Herzl's great call to the Jewish world: "If you wish it, it is no dream."

In one of those characteristic addresses which never fail to rouse the Jewish masses, the Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, who

was present with Mrs. Goldbloom, spoke of his longstanding friendship with Leon Feitelson and expressed his gratification that in this locality at least the Jewish future of youth was assured. Mr. Max Weiner, who was making his farewell speech to the community and expressed the appreciation of himself and his wife for the many kindnesses they had received from the community in general and Mr. and Mrs. Feitelson in particular, stressed that the Tree Nursery was a unique combination of symbolic and practical significance. It would grow and multiply as would the family whose name it bore.

Two million trees a year: In a few words that sketched vividly the locale and function of the Tree Nursery, Mr. Lewis Harris said that they contemplated raising two million trees from the Tree Nursery annually and service the great Forest projects in the Corridor. This year it had nurtured one-and-a-half million trees. Expressing the hope that Mr. Feitelson and all who had participated in the project would come to see it, he said that by its location at Eshtaol it was a landmark situated in "the most vital and dearest part of the country."

Speaking on behalf of the Zionist Federation, Mr. N. Englesberg asked the gathering to ensure that the spiritual connection between Israel and the Anglo-

Jewish community would be maintained. Presentations were then made by Mr. J. Angel of Certificates to representatives of all organisations aiding the achievement of the project. These were: Wizo, Jewish Ladies' Guild, Southend and Westcliff Friendship Club, St. Leonard's Lodge of Freemasons, Jewish Youth Clubs, United Jewish Friendly Society, the Hebrew Classes and the Southend District Friendship and Social Club.

Then came the presentation of the Title Deeds. In the course of a scholarly address, Rabbi Shebson discussed the happy coincidence of the presentation with the sixth anniversary of the United Nations' recognition calling for the establishment of the Jewish State.

Mr. Feitelson's reply was devoted to his own appreciation of all the speakers who had that day combined to make this one of the most memorable occasions of his life. He reiterated the contribution of Mr. Freedman in making the achievement possible. He was proud to be the leader of the community and pledged that while he had the strength and if he was spared, he would serve it to the utmost. Visibly moved, he told how for him this simcha must be mingled with sadness. His life-partner had looked forward to this day, but though she was not with them in person, he was sure she was there in spirit. His words were greeted with great acclamation.

Great Conception: Mr. Paul Feitelson,

(Continued on page 23, foot col. 3)



Mr. Feitelson receiving the Deeds from Rabbi Shebson. Looking on are: Mr. Nat Burstein, Mrs. Rosser Chinn, and Mr. I. Freedman.

JPA-JNF NEWS

INAUGURAL ONEG SHABBAT

Last Saturday evening there took place the first of a series of fortnightly Onegei Shabbat for Jewish youth in London. Young people of all movements, Hebrew teachers and others filled the hall to capacity in the creation of a fine Jewish atmosphere pervaded with a great spirit of enthusiasm.

A combination of music, entertainment and formal talks, the Oneg Shabbat is an old Zionist tradition to give special significance to the Sabbath in Jewish life and to link with it the unity of the Jewish people. Last Saturday's programme, which took place at the West End Great Synagogue Hall, was inaugurated by Israel Embassy Counsellor Gershon Avner. There were brief addresses by members of the Israeli Press Delegation now in England, while Theodore Bikel, the well-known actor, gave some of his celebrated solos and Vera Goldman performed biblical and Israeli dances.

Mr. David Rivlin, who presided, said in his opening remarks that these regular

functions should, in creating an authentic Jewish atmosphere fostering Judaism, Zionism and knowledge of Israel, serve as a humble reply to those elements in Anglo-Jewry striving for assimilation and dividing the Diaspora from Israel.

Under the auspices of the Embassy of Israel, these Onegei Shabbat have been arranged by the Youth and Education Department of the Jewish National Fund in association with the Zionist Youth Council and the Union of Israeli Students in London. They are taking place fortnightly on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m. at 21 Dean Street, W.1. The aim is to provide, against an informal background, discussions, lectures, symposia, debates and mock trials, as well as Israeli folk songs and dances and other entertainment. It offers a unique and congenial point of contact between young Israelis living in this country and our own youth. Only one shilling per person is being charged, this to cover the cost of refreshments.

Future programmes include talks by Mr. Max Weiner and the Rev. I. Levy, O.B.E., films, pianoforte recitals, community singing, a mock trial and a brains trust with four Embassy Attachés as the panel.

A cordial welcome is extended therefore to all wishing to spend a stimulating evening on the 12th December next.

LONDON REGIONAL COUNCIL'S NEW CHAIRMAN

IVOR J. POMSOM ELECTED

Following the retirement of Mr. Rosser Chinn as chairman of the London Regional Council of the J.N.F. since its inauguration, Mr. Ivor Pomson, chairman of the Hendon J.N.F. Commission, was elected at a recent meeting of J.N.F. honorary officers to this office.

Mr. Pomson, an old worker for the Zionist cause, is prominent in the community life of his borough. Formerly treasurer of the J.P.A. in Hendon, Mr. Pomson is warden of the local synagogue, chairman of the Old People's Friendship Club and chairman of the editorial board of the synagogue magazine.

At the last Annual Conference, Mr. Pomson was elected to the J.N.F. Administrative Committee. He speaks Hebrew fluently, as well as a number of other languages.

In succeeding Rosser Chinn, Mr. Pomson takes over one of the most effective and hardworking of Zionist

(Continued at foot of next column)



London

Thelma Patricia Davis and Kai Feinberg on the occasion of their Marriage by their uncles and aunts. A happy union between England and Norway. 12th November.

Belfast

Warren Jeffrey Coppel on the occasion of his Barmitzva by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Coppel. 28th November.

LEEDS RECITAL

Included in the tour of provincial centres which Frank Pelleg, the Israeli pianist, is making under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund, was a visit to Leeds.

The recital took place at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Rosenthall and was sponsored by the local J.N.F. Commission. During an hour's performance Mr. Pelleg introduced some of those modern compositions from Israel which are now being heard in this country for the first time.

Leeds Jewry is indebted to Mrs. Rosenthall for her initiative, the success of which must be an encouragement to others to organise similar cultural functions in the future.

EDGWARE TO HEAR J.N.F. PRESIDENT

Next week, on the occasion of the presentation of Nachlah Title Deeds in Chevel Simon Marks to the Edgware J.N.F. Commission, Mr. Sigmund Gestetner, the president of the J.N.F., will visit the community. Among other speakers at the presentation ceremony, which will take place in the Edgware District Synagogue on the 10th December, will be Mr. C. I. Orr-Ewing, M.P. for North Hendon, the Mayor of Hendon, Councillor A. V. Sully, Rev. S. Amias and Mr. Lewis Harris, incoming director of the J.N.F.

(Continued from previous column)

committees. The London Regional Council contains representatives from all Commissions whose duty it is to confer with each other and exchange information regarding their individual activities.

Mr. Pomson is to be assisted in his work by two vice-chairmen: Mr. C. Molen of West Ham and the Rev. Rosenfeld of Finchley.



London

72 trees in the name of Gary Paul Bobbe on the occasion of his Brith Milah by the Guests. 11th October.

13 trees in the name of Rabbi M. Frydman by the Ohel Shem Synagogue on the occasion of Simchat Torah. 5714.

13 trees in the name of Mr. P. Lewis by the Ohel Shem Synagogue on the occasion of Simchat Torah. 5714.

Glasgow

15 trees in the name of Samuel Plotnikoff, on the occasion of his Barmitzva, by relatives and friends. 3rd October.

12 trees in the name of Lionel Michael Collins on the occasion of his Pidyon Haben by relatives and friends. 6th September.

Grimsby

25 trees in the names of Mr. and Mrs. A. Yale on the occasion of their Silver Wedding by their Family. 11th October.

Harrogate

150 trees by William Adler in memory of his wife Elizabeth Adler (née Joinson).

Leeds

13 trees in the name of Melvyn Barry Cohen on the occasion of his Barmitzva by his parents. 29th August.

2 trees in the names of Sidney Selwyn Orbaum and Cynthia Goodman on the occasion of their Marriage, by their parents. 28th October.

JPA-JNF NEWS

Up and Down the Country

J.N.F. FELLOWSHIP

Professor Jack Weingreen, of Trinity College, Dublin, addressed the J.N.F. Fellowship in London on 10th November. Members voiced their gratitude at being able to hear for a second time a speaker whose graphic description of life in Israel brought its problems and achievements vividly close to them.

FRANK PELLEG IN MANCHESTER

"The more our troubles, the more we want music in Israel." So spoke Frank Pelleg, the eminent pianist, harpsichordist and musical adviser to the Israel Ministry of Education, in a short intermission-talk during his soiree and piano recital in the Manchester home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Freedman last week. Introducing two

Israel contemporary composers, Ben-Haim and Boscovich, Mr. Pelleg declared that present-day Israel composers were mainly Western-educated but were seeking to create their music in the idiom of Oriental folklore.

The recital, which was held under the joint auspices of the Manchester J.N.F. functions committee and the Manchester Zionist Association, and at which Mr. and Mrs. H. Freedman and Mr. and Mrs. M. Schypiro and Mrs. E. Schypiro were joint hosts, also included works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Ravel. Mr. Pelleg was introduced by Mr. Ben Morris, vice-president of the Manchester Zionist Association, while Mr. M. Bernstein, of the Manchester J.N.F. functions committee, also spoke.

This week's best boxes

	£	s.	d.			
LONDON						
North						
Mrs. D. Harris, 59 Highpoint	3	17	11	Mr. H. Kay, B10 Calthorpe Mansions, 15	2	0 0
East						
Mr. Perlowsky, 9 Meynell Gardens	10	0	0	H. Belcher, 9 Augusta Road, 15	2	0 0
Messrs. Benmax Bros., 22 Mare Street	3	2	0	Mr. Prais, 111 Russell Road, 13	2	0 0
Mr. Gilbert, 75 Greenwood Road	2	10	0	Mr. M. Walden, 50 Peacock Road, 14	2	0 0
Mrs. Zeidman, 110 Amhurst Road	2	8	0	LEEDS		
Mr. J. Ciang, 9 Rutland Road	2	0	2	Mr. S. Simon, 31 Sandmoor Drive,	2	12 0
West						
Mr. Gilbert (Brenner Sports), Carnaby House, Beak Street	10	14	6	Mr. B. Silverman, 19 Primley Park Ave.,	2	12 0
Mrs. Lasnick, 42 Cleveland Road	8	3	1	Mr. Allan Stross, 22 Westcombe Avenue, 8	2	12 0
Mr. Greenspan, 41 Wellesley Court	5	1	6	Mr. S. March, 6 Primley Park Avenue,	2	12 0
Mr. L. Reisz, 6 Greek Street	3	7	10	Mr. S. Ginsberg, 918 Scott Hall Road, 7	2	12 0
Mr. O. Deytsch, 84 Drayton Bridge Road	2	2	6	Mr. M. Share, 1 Bentcliffe Lane, 7	2	12 0
Mr. H. Diamond, 77 Wellesley Court	2	2	0	Mr. G. Stross, 20 Park Avenue, 8	2	12 0
West End Great Synagogue, 21 Dean Street	2	0	0	Mr. I. Gee, 469 Harrogate Rd., Alwoodley	2	12 0
North-West						
Mrs. S. Fisher, 12 Southbourne Crescent	6	0	0	Mrs. Ellen Silman, 444 Street Lane, 7	2	12 0
Mr. Howard, 8 Malcolm Court	4	0	0	Mr. Em. Rakusen, 17 Sandmoor Avenue,	2	12 0
Mr. H. V. Benzinra, 74 Brondesbury Park	3	2	6	Mr. J. Rapaport, 60 Wensley Road, 7	2	12 0
Mr. H. Segal, 39 Brampton Grove	3	0	0	Mr. L. E. Wigoder, J.P., 1 Crescent Gdns.,	2	12 0
Mrs. Zang, 5 Trevelyn Gardens	2	18	0	Mr. S. Freedman, 491 Street Lane, 7	2	12 0
Mrs. M. Berry, 9 Sherbourne, Holders Hill Road	2	12	6	Mr. L. Aliman, 8 Ladywood Road, 8	2	12 0
Mr. J. Lyon, 172 Dorset House	2	9	0	Mr. H. Hyams, 107 Alwoodley Lane	2	12 0
Mrs. Strauss, 72 Downage	2	7	6	Mr. I. H. Ellison, 32 Moorland Drive, 7	2	12 0
Mrs. Baumgarten, 86 Audley Road	2	0	0	Mr. L. Landey, 38 Moorland Drive, 7	2	12 0
Mr. S. Margulies, 10 Southbourne Crescent	2	0	0	Mr. S. Newman, 16 Dominion Avenue, 7	2	12 0
Mr. I. Lustigman, 312 Watford Way	2	0	0	Mr. B. Silver, 30 Shadwell Walk, 7	2	12 0
Mr. M. Cailler, 13 Manor Hall Avenue	2	0	0	Mr. M. Barki, 19 York Place, 1	2	12 0
Edgware						
Mrs. E. Goldberg, 98 Mowbray Road	4	2	0	Dr. H. Sharp, 9 Park Lane, 8	2	12 0
Mr. M. Caplan, 86 Mowbray Road	2	7	7	Mr. J. Shooman, 42 Kings Mount, 7	2	12 0
Stammore						
Mrs. F. Sanker, 25 Jesmond Way	2	4	0	Mr. A. Glassar, 8 Garmont Road, 7	2	12 0
BIRMINGHAM						
Mr. Barnett, 40 Melville Road, 16	5	18	6	Mr. L. Harrison, "Four Winds," Sandmoor Avenue, Alwoodley	2	12 0
Mr. Brown, 161 Bristol Road, 5	5	17	6	Mr. M. Pitt, 10 Sandmoor Drive, Alwoodley	2	12 0
Mr. E. Morris, 119 Russell Road, 13	5	16	6	Mr. J. D. Manson, 17 Chelwood Grove, 8	2	12 0
Mr. Rabinowitz, 12 Upper Dean Street, 1	5	15	0	Mr. M. Phillips, 92 Stainburn Crescent, 7	2	12 0
Mr. Ranton, 24 Melville Road, 16	5	9	4	LIVERPOOL		
Mrs. Black, 14 Hampton Court, 16	5	0	0	Mr. E. Bernstein, 167 Allerton Road, 18	3	10 0
Mr. J. Symes, 19 Lyttleton Road, 16	4	7	0	Mr. Ison, 179 Score Lane, 16	3	3 0
Mr. M. Arkush, 38 Woodlands Road, 13	4	7	0	Mr. D. Lautenberg, 46 Cromptons Lane, 18	2	19 2
Mr. H. Glatt, 133 Viceroy Close, 5	4	0	0	MIDDLESBROUGH AND STOCKTON		
Mr. Coombs, 136 Bristol Road, 5	3	3	6	Mrs. Fishburn, "Brierfield," Hanow Road	11	12 9
Mr. M. Plotnek, 8 Hamstead Road	3	3	0	Mrs. Schmulewitsch, "The Pines," The Grove, Marton	10	10 0
Mr. E. Woolf, 70 Arthur Road, 15	3	0	0	Mrs. E. Levy, "Southview," Oxford Road	6	14 6
Mr. E. Alprehn, 89 Bristol Road, 5	2	18	8	Mrs. Wiseman, 10 Claude Avenue	6	0 0
Mrs. Barnett, 28 Raglan Road, 5	2	15	0	Mrs. L. Bhariar, 20 Orchard Road	3	7 0
Mr. S. Chesler, 189 Russell Road, 13	2	5	0	Mrs. B. M. Marks, "The Gables," Oxford Road	3	3 6
Mr. M. K. Rose, D6 Calthorpe Mans., 15	2	4	6	Mrs. B. Goldstein, 196 Newport Road	2	9 7
Mr. R. Hoff, 186 Poplar Avenue, 17	2	3	0	Mrs. J. Brickner, 4 Emerson Avenue	2	0 0
Mr. H. Goodman, 53 Augusta Road, 13	2	0	0	NOTTINGHAM		
				Mr. S. Braman, 2b Noll Street	4	11 6
				Mrs. Clara Posaner, 43 Exton Road	3	6 6

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 8th December

HENDON. Chanukah Dance at the Brent Bridge Hotel, N.W.4, at 7.30 p.m. Dancing to Maurice Sinclair and his Society Orchestra. Tombola. Tickets 10/6, from Mrs. L. Shreider, 62 Downage, N.W.4. HFndon 6926. and Mr. A. Blake, 65 Southampton Row, W.C.1. Mus. 6111.

Thursday, 10th December

WEST HAM JUNIOR J.N.F. COMMISSION. Buffet Ball, Brent Bridge Hotel. Nat Temple and his Band. Catering by Schaverien. Tickets 25s. from Miss E. A. Waldman, 63 Claremont Road, E.7; Miss S. Soester, 17 Greencroft Gardens, N.W.6; Mr. A. Green, 95 Valley Drive, N.W.9 and Pope's Garage, 94 Whitechapel High Street, E.1.

Saturday, 26th December

SOUTH - WEST ESSEX J.N.F. COMMISSION. Annual Dinner and Ball. 6 p.m. Amhurst Park Hall, N.16. Dancing to Maurice Sinclair and His Orchestra. Tickets 2 gns. from Miss S. Slowe, 10 Westmoreland Road, E.17. LEYton 2594.

Saturday, 27th February, 1954

8th BLUE & WHITE BALL, Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dancing to Van Straten and Edmundo Ros. Tickets: 2½ guineas, available from R. J. Friedmann, J.N.F., 65 Southampton Row, W.C.1. MUSEum 6111, and all London Commissions.

(Continued from page 21)

replying in the name of the Feitelson family, thanked the community for the honour bestowed upon their name. "We are witnessing a moment of Jewish history," he said.

A member of the administrative committee of the Jewish National Fund, and a son-in-law of the guest of honour, Mr. Rosser Chinn, concluded the speeches with an expression of goodwill to Messrs. Weiner and Harris as the one relinquished, and the other assumed, direction of the J.N.F. Mr. Chinn, amid applause, emphasised that it was usually given to him to talk in concrete terms. He would make no appeal that evening—"though the temptation was great"—but he voiced the hope that the community would accept immediately the task of constructing a bridge in the Huleh Basin.

Mr. M. Cazin proposed a vote thanks to the chairman. Earlier, a luncheon tendered by the commission, Mrs. Lee, a daughter of Mr. Feitelson, in a brief and graceful speech expressed her family's gratification for the esteem shown to them all by the community.

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